

Kuwait says it will join Arab force

CAIRO (R) — Kuwait's prime minister, demanding an Iraqi withdrawal from his country, said Saturday Kuwait troops would join any Arab force sent to "defend" Gulf states against Baghdad. "As you know the Kuwaiti force is there and will participate in any Arab force," Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah told reporters before addressing a rally at the Kuwaiti embassy in Cairo. He would not say if any troops had actually been sent to Saudi Arabia. "I can't answer any questions related to military movements," he said. Sheikh Saad, accompanied by his Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, was met by hundreds of Kuwaitis at the embassy chanting "we are ready to give our lives and blood for Kuwait." The crowd, including many Kuwaiti tourists marooned in Cairo by the Aug. 2 invasion, called for the death of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and yelled slogans against the Iraqi Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Aradat. Sheikh Saad attended a call by Saddam Friday for "Arab masses" to rise against foreign troops in the region.

Islamic league urges Iraqi pullout

NICOSIA (R) — The World Islamic League called on Iraq Saturday to end its occupation of Kuwait and accept deployment of a Muslim peacekeeping force between the two countries. "A statement issued by the group after an appeal by Saddam Hussein to Arabs and Muslims to save the holy places of Mecca and Medina from foreign forces said: 'We wish Iraqi President Saddam Hussein would call on Arabs and Muslims to liberate Al Aqsa Mosque from Jewish hands. The league asks the Iraqi president to save the blood and money of Muslims and remove the cause of the problem... the occupation of Kuwait by Iraqi troops.' It appealed to him 'to take the first step and agree with Muslim countries represented by the league to send Islamic forces to supervise an Iraq troop withdrawal to the international border.' The statement, carried by the Saudi Press Agency, also said U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia had not defiled Muslim holy places. 'The two holy places are pure and have been touched only by the foreheads of the worshippers, and they are being looked after by honest hands which care for their religion,' the Mecca-based league said.

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Mubarak meets Benjedid, Qadhafi and Assad

ALEXANDRIA (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak followed up Friday's Arab summit on the Gulf crisis by holding talks on Saturday with the leaders of Algeria, Libya and Syria, officials said. No details emerged here from the meeting, but in Damascus Syrian presidential spokesman Imbrahim Kharich told Reuters the four "agreed in describing the (Gulf) situation as a dangerous situation which could explode at any time and that nobody could predict its outcome." Mubarak, presidents Chadi Benjedid of Algeria and Hafez Al Assad of Syria, and Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, talked over lunch in a former royal palace in his Mediterranean port.

India plans Iraq evacuation

NEW DELHI (AP) — India is sending a plane to Amman to evacuate 700 pilgrims stranded in the area, a government spokesman said Saturday. The Indians had travelled to Iraq on pilgrimage. Spokesman, Aftab Seth, said Iraq had allowed the Indians to travel to Amman. The plane is expected in Amman Monday. India has, meanwhile, drawn up plans to evacuate more than 170,000 of its nationals caught in the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral was quoted Saturday as saying the government was waiting for permission from Iraqi authorities to allow the Indians to leave, most likely by road to Jordan. India has one of the largest Arab communities in Kuwait, estimated to be 172,000. Gujral said no Indians were reported injured in the fighting.

Iraq to punish food monopolisers

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq, its trade cut by U.N. sanctions, said Saturday it would sentence to death any profiteering merchants who hoarded food. A communiqué issued by the ruling Revolutionary Command Council and read on Baghdad Television said the step was taken "to foil all imperialist plots as well as the economic blockade and provide enough food to all citizens." The previous sentence for hoarding was 10 to 15 years in jail. The council said it would consider any act of hoarding or monopoly as "an act of sabotage affecting national security." The U.N. Security Council last week imposed trade sanctions on Iraq for its take-over of Kuwait Aug. 2.

Sudanese cabinet reshuffled

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's military government Saturday announced a minor cabinet change involving its ministers of justice and trade. No reason was given for the change, announced by the Sudan News Agency and other state-run media. Justice Minister and Attorney General Hassan Ismail Al Beily was replaced by Brigadier Ahmad Mahmoud Hassan. The new minister was the legal advisor for the 15-man ruling military junta. Trade Minister Farouk al Bushra was replaced by Awad Ahmad Al Jaz. The government also relieved General Yousef Saraj, the military governor of the eastern region. He was replaced by Colonel Al Awad Mohammad Al Hassan. This is the second reshuffle in Omar Hassan Al Bashir's government since he took over in a military coup June 1989.

'Beirut is heaven'

BEIRUT (R) — More than one hundred Lebanese, fleeing the civil war in Lebanon with what they could carry, returned to Beirut Saturday saying their own war-torn country was paradise in comparison. Airport sources said a chartered plane landed in Beirut airport carrying 152 Lebanese from Monrovia via Sierra Leone, with a second flight expected on Sunday. "I have returned for good. Lebanon, despite its problems, is heaven compared to Liberia," said one passenger. Lebanese traders dominated Liberia's once-thriving parallel economy. Many were trapped and their shops burned out.

King warns angry Arab reaction to foreign action

Jordan ready to join Arab force if it will replace foreign troops in Saudi Arabia

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan would have joined the Arab force to be deployed in Saudi Arabia if the force was to have replaced the foreign forces now deployed there, and Amman remains very firm on its position that the Gulf crisis should be resolved within an Arab context. His Majesty King Hussein said Saturday.

In an interview with Cable News Network (CNN) television broadcast Saturday evening, the King said a resolution adopted by Friday's Arab summit held in Cairo calling for the deployment of an Arab force in Saudi Arabia against what was perceived by some Arab leaders as an Iraqi threat (see story below) was not binding on all Arab League member states but said Jordan was ready to contribute to the force if it would replace the foreign forces now deployed in Saudi Arabia.

In the interview, conducted by CNN's Renold Evans, the King

voiced regret that the Gulf conflict was internationalised as a result of the foreign deployment, and expressed hope that "it is not too late" to find a solution to the problem.

Following is the interview in a question and answer form:

Question: Your Majesty, the drums of war are beating over the Middle East oil fields and the deserts and the sands of the Middle East right now. Is war unavoidable?

Answer: I hope it is avoidable, and I think I have been doing my best here to make it so.

Q: Your Majesty, you have done your best to avoid the war and I think you have done a great deal to mediate this. What are the odds now because the whole world is interested in this situation and it seems to be that the whole world is obviously anxious that there is a build-up and there is an escalation, and unfortunately

the outside world is involved in this build-up and the dangers to be? President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, against whom the United States is targeting many thousands of troops, called Friday evening for a holy war against the Americans. I want you to give us your judgement sir, why would he use that language and do you think he overstates the case?

A: I received the text of the Iraqi statement last night (Friday) and I believe he was making a reference to foreign troops in Saudi Arabia, which is also the country where the holiest of Islamic places are. I suppose when Saudi Arabia becomes a base for such massive forces which are posing a threat to Iraq, may be... attention to the fact that is what the Iraqis wanted to make in this area.

Q: Your Majesty, if it comes to shooting, and American bullets kill Arab soldiers, how do you think the people in the Arab World are going to react?

A: Very sincerely, they are going to react very angrily throughout the

whole Arab World.

Q: Would there be civil disturbances, riots against the Americans in view of what is happening today in the Middle East? Are Americans very safe in the big cities of the Middle East?

A: I honestly cannot tell categorically but I believe that Arabs are hospitable people and that hopefully they would not harm those who are amongst them as their guests but American interests everywhere are subject to danger.

Q: Your Majesty, if war does come, Saddam Hussein, the president of Iraq, has a territory that lies to your east and you have a long border with it, what would your position as king of Jordan be if war started?

A: Ironically, I have Israel on the one hand and I have its strategic ally, the United States, on the other and I have an Arab country threatened and I really would have to handle it as it comes.

Q: What would happen if war did start? Would Jordan send forces to join the Arab forces, as I understand

(Continued on page 2)

Cairo Arab summit harbingers redrawing of Arab political map

By Lamin K. Andou
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The results of the emergency Arab summit, which concluded in Cairo Friday, and the pattern of Arab voting on the resolutions adopted, have further emphasised political divisions among Arab countries which clearly emerged during the last Arab summit in Baghdad three months ago, according to Arab analysts.

But while a trend which aimed at undercutting the American influence in the region prevailed in the Baghdad summit, the opposite trend which favours closer ties with the U.S. emerged as the apparent winner in the Cairo summit, the analysts said.

The results of the summit, mainly the pledge by 12 Arab states to dispatch troops to Saudi Arabia to "defend it against Iraq," was also viewed

as a blow to the Iraqi-led Arab strategy which aimed at preventing the area from "succumbing to complete American hegemony" following the Soviet pullout from Afghanistan.

The trend, which was led by Egypt and Saudi Arabia during the Baghdad summit, had then opposed steps directed at undermining the American influence in the region. The underlying argument behind the Saudi and Egyptian positions then, according to Arab officials, was that it "was not wise to intimidate the U.S., particularly as it has emerged as the sole superpower following the collapse of Socialist bloc."

But while the weight of Baghdad and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein — backed by popular pressures, particularly in the Israeli-occupied territories and other Arab countries, for taking a stronger position

against the U.S. and Israel — greatly influenced the Baghdad summit resolutions, the essence of the new Arab position reflected the position of the host country of the latest summit, Egypt.

"The international condemnation of the Iraqi take-over of Kuwait and its official Arab isolation, gave the upper hand to the voices which were practically silenced during the Baghdad summit," an analyst said.

Observers also noted two other aspects of the one-day summit. First, that the voting pattern did not confirm to the pre-summit sub-regional alliances. Secondly, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad chose to rally behind the American-backed resolutions in an apparent attempt to down his arch-rival President Hussein.

Except for the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council

(GCC) — which are united in their fear of Iraqi influence and their support for pro-American policies — the other two blocs, the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and the Arab Maghreb Union did not conform to a unified position.

In fact members of the ACC and the Arab Maghreb Union came out divided and contradictory in their stands, which raised doubts about the future and the continuity of these groupings.

In the case of the ACC, Egypt voted in favour of dispatching Arab troops "to defend Saudi Arabia" and wholeheartedly endorsed the isolation of Iraq — a member of the same bloc — while the other two members Jordan and Yemen abstained.

The voting pattern of the third North African bloc was even more puzzling as Tunis

(Continued on page 5)

Iraq holds Saudi Arabia responsible for any attack

Reports discounted of firing on jets

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq Saturday denounced Arab leaders who pledged to send troops to Saudi Arabia as a "gathering of evil men."

It said Saudi Arabia, which invited U.S.-led foreign forces into the kingdom, would be directly responsible for any attack against Iraq.

"These foreign forces have one sole aim — to commit aggression against Iraq. Saudi Arabia has made of itself an instrument for this aggression and a direct partner in it," the government newspaper Al Jumhuriya said.

"Therefore, Saudi Arabia bears direct responsibility for any attack on Iraq and will have to suffer its consequences with all its partners," it added.

Baghdad's Pan-Arab Command Council, in a statement on radio and television, described Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak as a "servant of the oil emirs" conspiring with them to do the bidding of their American masters.

"Mubarak, servant of the oil emirs, has prepared a climate of conspiracy..." said the command, the highest organ of the

ruling Baath Party.

"Those plotters did not reach any formula to compromise and stuck to what was demanded from them by America out of their and their American master's belief... that the gathering of evil men represented the will of the Arabs."

"This is clearly a defeat for the oil emirs because they failed to obtain the majority of the Arabs for their suspicious resolution," added the statement.

(Continued on page 5)

Thousands expected today at Mafraq 'confrontation rally'

By Mariam M. Shabin and P.V. Vivekanand

AMMAN — Thousands of people are expected to take part in what is billed as a "confrontation rally" held at a football stadium in the north-eastern town of Mafraq Saturday to crown a series of demonstrations all over the Kingdom to express solidarity with Iraq in its stand-off with the U.S.

The event, organised by the newly-created Jordanian Nationalist Arab Democratic Coalition which groups Baathist, Leftist, Nationalist, Communist and independent political activists, appeared Saturday to have drawn bi-partisan support when a Muslim Brotherhood spokesman said members of his group would take part.

"Although we were not specifically asked to take part, the

invitation (which appeared in the form of an ad in local newspapers Saturday) was addressed to all Jordanians and as such I would say we are invited," said Ziad Abu Ghannim, spokesman for the Brotherhood. "Our main concern at this point in time is the American intervention in the area. It is the number one threat to the region and we must all join hands to fight this threat," he said.

The significance of Muslim Brothers' participation in the event was underlined by analysts who pointed out that the democratic coalition was widely seen as a political group created specifically for the purpose of countering the growing influence of the Islamic movements in the region.

"It seems that (Iraqi President) Saddam (Hussein) has managed to bring some form of coherence among the various political groups

to bury their political differences and come under one umbrella for once for the sake of a national cause," commented a seasoned political observer.

Rally organisers said at a press conference Saturday that participants would be bused to Mafraq, 60 kilometres northeast of Amman, from the Professional Association Complex in Shmeisani at 2 p.m. The actual event would begin at 4 p.m. by paying tribute to Iraqi soldiers who fell in the 1947 and the 1967 Arab-Israeli wars at a martyrs' cemetery in Mafraq, about 300 kilometres from the Iraqi border.

Participants, who will include at least a dozen members of the Lower House of Parliament who espouse varying political ideologies, will then walk 1,300 metres to the local football stadium where the rally would be addressed by three main speakers — Dr. Mamdouh Abbadi, head of the Professional Associations and spokesmen for the democratic coalition.

(Continued on page 5)

Bush 'would not mind' seeing Saddam toppled

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (R) — President George Bush hinted Saturday it would be fine with him if the Iraqi people overthrew President Saddam Hussein. "That sometimes happens... some countries around the world are hoping that will happen," Bush told reporters when asked if he wanted to topple the Iraqi leader.

Asked if the United States was one of the countries hoping to see Saddam gone, Bush replied, "whatever, it takes to have our objectives met is what should take place."

Bush made the remarks at a news conference at his seaside retreat after meeting Secretary of State James Baker, National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft and other aides at his Maine vacation home.

Bush later said he was not

prepared to actively support the overthrow of Saddam, but he expected Iraq to respect its neighbour's borders and declared, "if that means Saddam Hussein changes his spots, so be it, if he doesn't, I hope the Iraqi people do something about it."

Bush meanwhile tried to build diplomatic pressure on Iraq and continued planning for a naval blockade in the Gulf as U.S. troops poured into Saudi Arabia.

He conferred at his seaside home with American officials and spoke by telephone with Arab leaders as troops and warplanes were deployed to help repel any Iraqi attack across the border.

Britain is to send 24 warplanes and several other states are contributing to a major regional naval build-up.

Egypt has already sent the first group of troops to defend Saudi

Arabia as part of a multinational Arab force, presidential press secretary Mohammed Abdul Moneim said in Cairo Saturday. He would not give details.

Bush spoke on the telephone with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and praised his "constructive role in securing passage of the resolution to send Arab troops to participate in a multinational force."

The Arab League, meeting in emergency session, Friday voted to endorse a multinational force to set up defensive positions.

"The president said the Arab League action was very favourable and gives us significant optimism for the future of the mission," Fitzwater said.

Bush also spoke with Emir Sheikh Isa Salman Al Khalifa of Bahrain.

Soviets welcome Arab move, prepare to evacuate citizens

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union, preparing to evacuate its citizens from Kuwait, said Saturday it welcomed Arab action to resolve the Gulf crisis sparked by Iraq's take-over of Kuwait.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry issued a statement on the Arab summit which ended in Cairo Friday without directly referring to the meeting's decision to send an Arab force to "defend" Saudi Arabia from possible Iraqi attack.

The statement said Moscow was satisfied with "the aim of the Arab leaders to make an energetic contribution to settling the dangerous crisis."

"It was in this way that the Soviet Union interpreted the outcome of the meeting in Cairo, which again condemned Iraqi intervention in Kuwait, demanded withdrawal of Iraqi troops from

this country and did not recognise the annexation of Kuwait."

The statement, published by the official TASS news agency, coincided with the creation by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev of a special commission to handle the evacuation of 880 Soviet citizens from Kuwait.

TASS said Baghdad had agreed to allow the Soviet nationals in Kuwait to leave overland through Iraq to Jordan, a journey of some 2,000 kilometres. "The Soviet side is trying to find other, more comfortable ways of evacuation by air and sea."

The agency said efforts were also being made, if necessary, to bring out family members of Soviet workers in Iraq, also allowed to leave.

The Soviet Union has 7,830 citizens in Iraq, where some

Western leaders fear their nationals may be potential hostages used to stave off outside military intervention.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry statement followed a message sent Friday by Gorbachev to Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak.

Gorbachev called on Arab states to try to resolve the Gulf crisis by themselves.

"It is impossible not to welcome the growing understanding among Arabs of their role and responsibility for future peace in the Middle East," the Foreign Ministry said.

It added that Arab leaders had to act to prevent the crisis from flaring up into a conflict that could cause grave damage not only to Arab interests but to international peace.

(Continued on page 2)

Palestinian family says police allowed killing

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A Palestinian family has accused Israeli police on Friday of refusing appeals to intervene as a Jewish mob stoned and killed a father-of-six to death in West Jerusalem.

Izat Halabeh 42, from Arab Jerusalem died in hospital Thursday, two days after a mob smashed his car with stones as he drove his pregnant wife and three of his children to see relatives in the occupied West Bank city of Hebron.

The children, aged between 18 months and five years suffered cuts and bruises as the mob pelted their bleeding father with stones and repeatedly kicked him.

"We are more angry at the police who stood watching while they stoned and killed Izat to death," said Rasem Halabeh, Izat's younger brother, as he received mourners in a three-storey house decorated with red, black, white and green Palestinian flags.

Israeli witnesses said police were present when Izat's car was attacked by stone-throwers from a pedestrian bridge and both sides of the main Jerusalem-Hebron road.

Police spokesman Uzi Sandori

denied knowledge of the incident but said they would investigate if his wife filed a complaint.

Izat was killed following the discovery Monday of the bodies of two Jewish teenagers who had been stabbed to death. Police blamed it on unknown Palestinian nationalists.

The main street in the neighbourhood of Silwan was strewn with stones and metal fragments Friday. Israeli police and paramilitary border police tried to avoid clashes but ordered residents to clear stones from the street.

Rasem said his widowed sister-in-law, Amira, told him several policemen cursed her and told her to shut up when she cried out for them to save her wounded husband.

Amira, five months pregnant, also told her family the mob prevented a Jewish doctor from giving help to her husband, who was bleeding near his smashed car.

More than 80 Arabs were wounded in several days of anti-Arab attacks in various parts of West Jerusalem, which Israeli newspapers blamed on the anti-Arab Kach movement.

A 25-year-old Arab woman

was also shot dead while driving at night by a Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank.

Foreign and Israeli journalists were attacked by the mobs, and some cameramen accused police of doing nothing while they were being assaulted.

Politicians in Israel's right-wing government parties failed to condemn the anti-Arab violence, prompting media charges that they gave tacit approval.

"I understand very well the feelings of these crowds," Yuval Neeman, minister of science and technology, told Israel Radio on Wednesday.

Police sappers Friday defused a homemade bomb loaded with nails that a "customer" had left in a shop in West Jerusalem, police said. They said the man, believed to be an Arab, fled.

Palestinians said six Israeli soldiers shot and killed Basel Mahmud Fares, 22, in the village of Yaabab near Jenin in the West Bank Friday. They said the soldiers gunned down Fares, a wanted uprising activist, in his home.

The army confirmed that someone was killed in Yaabab but said it had no information regarding the circumstances of the death and was investigating.

King warns of angry Arab reaction

(Continued from page 1)

it was approved in the summit in Cairo Friday night, to join the American forces in defence of Saudi Arabia?

A: In regard to that decision, it was a decision of certain countries; it is not binding on them all. I believe frankly under the circumstances we would have to look after our own territories.

We would have sent Arab troops together with other Arab troops if it were to replace the foreign presence in Saudi Arabia.

Q: By that you mean that if the American and the Western forces withdrew from Saudi Arabia an Arab force with you as participant would move in.

A: Yes, certainly.

Q: When you told President Bush that through an intermediary on the telephone what did he say?

Q: Let me be more specific. I do not think he brought up the question of Arab forces. At the time this problem arose there was a possibility of some forces being invited to the area we made it clear to Saudi Arabia that if they wanted our forces as part of an Arab force, uniquely Arab force, we would certainly send all the units we could.

Q: Do you think that the U.S. moved perhaps too fast and did not give King Hussein of Jordan to have his mediation and efforts to succeed?

A: I do not believe that the U.S. was the only side to this equation but there are many in the area and Arab colleagues that seemed to do their utmost to prevent me to contribute what I could to resolve this problem.

Q: Do you think you have been misunderstood in this situation or do you think you are out of step with your old friend and ally, the United States?

A: Well, it really depends. If the U.S. is trying to re-establish a physical presence and dominance in this area that is something which I do not expect and did not expect. But otherwise I do believe that there is a very serious misunderstanding between us.

Q: If the U.S. is trying to establish a military and power presence in the Middle East in the long run, can it work, Your Majesty?

A: I do not believe it can.

Q: Why not Sir?

A: Because people would resist it and because there are so many contradictions in the American position that it would do towards the people in this area. That will make it very difficult to accept that.

Q: One more question on the war. If it comes, what happens if Israel attacks Iraq the same time as Iraq is in conflict with the United States in Saudi Arabia what would you do? Do you think the Israelis will get involved?

A: I think probably at the latest stage... but in any event if that means that they will try to go to Iraq through Jordan, we will stop them to the best of our ability. Otherwise there is not much that we can do but hang on to our responsibility to defend our territory.

Q: You said that Israeli involvement might come at a late stage. Could you amplify that bit?

A: I think that any Israeli involvement at the outset would certainly create an immediate reaction from the Arab World. So probably Israel will not get involved from the beginning.

Q: But what if President Saddam Hussein should move his forces or some of his forces up close to your border? Would that provide the Israelis with a reason or a pretext for saying in self-defence that they will have to launch some kind of pre-emptive strike against Iraq which they did of course in 1967?

A: They can always find excuses and can make excuses that are uniquely to them but we do not have Iraq forces on our soil.

Q: If the Iraqi president asked you for the right to put forces on your territory I presume you would say thanks but no thanks?

A: I do not believe that the question would arise in the first place.

Q: Your Majesty, are you surprised at the speed with which President Bush has moved in this crisis?

A: I am rather surprised. He had to react. I believe he did so but I wish I had a chance to anticipate the crisis erupting the way it did, although it was there, and for me to have presented my views to them.

Q: Some people around the world think that Saddam Hussein seized Kuwait... he just took it like you take

a bank, but the West Bank of Jordan was taken by Israel in the 1967 war after you first attacked but when the war was over they were in possession of a lot of territory. Has the U.S. shown the same speed and determination to rectify that as we have with Kuwait?

A: It has taken us 23 years and we are still waiting for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242, which speaks of the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by force.

Q: Explain the difference Sir.

A: I cannot explain the difference.

Q: Try to.

A: Well, that is Israel and here is an inter-Arab problem which also has its roots. I believe there is now in the world in which we live now no more a communist threat and therefore there is an industrial future in this world that depends on energy and I believe there is a struggle to control the sources of energy in this area. We want the world to enjoy these sources of energy but we want also to be recognised as people on whose hand this very important commodity exists.

Q: Your Majesty, President Saddam Hussein has said many times that he would like to use the great oil resources of the Middle East not, as he puts it for the rich sheikhs and emirs but he would like to use it, for the people, the Arab people in the Middle East. Was he talking nonsense or does he mean that?

A: I believe he means it and has proven that. Iraq is incidentally rather very unique not only about speaking about its hopes but also the fact that Iraq is a very rich oil-producing state.

Q: You talk about the importance of oil to the industrialised world. Of course without oil the industrialised democracies would be nothing. They will lose their economies and go into depression. Do you think there is a sense here that perhaps the West would step to make a move towards internationalisation of the Arab oil so that they can have a guarantee?

A: This may be the case but what is the shape of the world in the years ahead? The U.S., Europe? What is the balance going to be Japan? The rest of the world? I believe that there is a struggle to improve positions as regards the future.

Q: If there were no oil in Saudi Arabia, do you think that the West and my country in particular would be moving as fast it is to rectify what is happening in Kuwait?

A: I have very serious doubts that that would be the case.

Q: So, you think that that oil is the principal factor here and not the U.N. Charter?

A: Well, principles are principles and we stand by them and we are against the acquisition of territories by war. We have helped to reach solutions for this problem but in the 1950s when the Arab union existed between Jordan and Iraq, and Kuwait had not yet received its independence, the famous late Nouri Al Saied, the prime minister of the union, had spoken to the British very forcefully that either Kuwait return to Iraq or the union would take some action. Within days the union collapsed with the revolution in Iraq. This is the background to the problem.

Q: Do you think George Bush understands that fact?

A: I do not believe that all the facts are clear to the president.

Q: Why would that be so, with all his advisors, why would not know all these facts?

A: He may, but I believe he is not more knowledgeable than any in regard to this area in the world with his vast experience, but he is able to hear different aspects of the problem. He is able to deal with all the problems of the world and at the same time have an accurate view of what is happening here? I really doubt it.

Q: You indicate to me that he maybe shut off somewhat from the Arab point of view, but perhaps not shut off from, well, say, as we were mentioning a minute ago from the Israeli point of view, is that a fair reflection of what you are saying?

A: Not only the president but the United States as a whole and the most of the world is receiving constantly and on a daily basis only the Israeli are of...

Q: Is the Israeli-Arab problem in anyway connective with what we are seeing right here now? In your own capital Thursday night five to seven Jordanians were demonstrating against the U.S. We saw the same thing in Sana'a, the capital of Yemen. Is that just American troops in Saudi

Arabia or is it the Arab-Israeli problem?

A: It is the Arab-Israeli problem in the long run and it is the strategic alliance between the U.S. and the Israelis.

Q: Now Your Majesty, I want to ask you a question which has nothing to do with Saudi Arabia and the American troops. Many Soviet Jews are coming into Israel as you know Sir. Is there any chance that the Israelis would allow any of them to settle in the West Bank which is the disputed area of Palestine?

A: That is very clear Sir. When Jews arrive in Israel they become Israeli citizens and can settle wherever they like and I am sure with the limited space of land that many of them are going to settle in the occupied territories. There is no doubt in that matter.

Q: Will that lead to pressure on the Palestinians, some thousands of Palestinians, on the West Bank to cross the river and come to your country?

A: I believe is a very strong chance. It is almost inevitable. At the same time, there are other serious problems, including the shortage of such things as water. We are suffering from that and I believe that the problem is becoming more acute.

Q: Before we break to the big question, here lies another issue, on which a war is (possible) in the future?

A: It is a very dangerous situation Sir. It hasn't been addressed and it is getting worse by the minute.

Q: The big question, Your Majesty, this, of course, the wreckage of good intentions by Western leaders in the Middle East as we have seen it with the British in Suez and we saw it with the Americans in Lebanon. Are we going to look back at this stage of history in your opinion, are we going to say that the United States had made a major mistake in sending large forces to the sand of the deserts of the Middle East and will someday...

A: I don't want to sound challenging Sir, or to provoke a reaction but very sincerely and very honestly I am very afraid that what is happening now is driven to a degree by the same mentality as brought us Suez in this area.

Q: Your Majesty, may I ask you to explain very briefly that mentality. What mentality?

A: Something that we thought we had gotten over many years ago Sir. The idea that some powers in this world can tell people, to you, you can say this or you cannot say that, you can move in this way you cannot move in the other way. I believe that we've got over that in the 50s and the 60s and that relations based on mutual respect and cooperation and friendship. But I don't know. It seems as if even in this crisis maybe our British friends have again approached it thinking in the same way as they did before, and because it is an area where they left us many legacies of tragedies and problems and maybe their advice of their concept is wrong only time would tell.

Q: Your Majesty, if we wished to get out tomorrow, how can the United States get out of Saudi Arabia, at this stage?

A: I have been doing my best to try to halt the escalation from the beginning, because I have said from the beginning intimidations and threats are not going to work, give us a chance to try to deal with this situation. Give us a bit of time, give us an opportunity. Well now it is pity, it is dangerous.

Q: It is too late?

A: I hope it is not too late Sir. Still I don't see an end to this process.

Your Majesty, Thank you.

Ben Ali

(Continued from page 1)

Students marched in Khartoum "calling on the masses of the Sudanese people and the student masses to volunteer to defend Arab land," according to the Sudanese news agency SUNA, also monitored by the BBC.

In Iraq itself, thousands marched to the Saudi and Egyptian embassies in Baghdad "to denounce those countries' shameful stand," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

'U.S. wants Iraqi coup to overthrow Saddam'

LOS ANGELES (R) — American policy towards Iraq is now aimed at bringing about a coup to overthrow President Saddam Hussein, the Los Angeles Times reported Friday, quoting unnamed Bush administration officials.

Although President George Bush has not gone publicly beyond saying America's aim is simply to restore the emir of Kuwait to his throne, officials are privately saying the policy goes much further, the newspaper said.

"The end game is going to be that the population is going to rise up against him. He's going to be overthrown," it quoted one unnamed official as saying.

Even if Saddam were to reverse his policy and withdraw from Kuwait voluntarily — an unlikely event — he would remain a constant menace to U.S. interests in the Gulf, the officials said.

The U.S.-led embargo on Iraq, which has shut down the country's oil industry, and begun to threaten its food supply, was designed to end that menace by creating a popular uprising, they

said. The newspaper said officials would not say whether the administration had taken any direct steps within Iraq to foster opposition to Saddam, but officials have been in touch with Syria and Iran, which have tried to subvert the Iraqi government.

It quoted officials as saying the economic embargo could, by itself, create enough fissures in Iraq to eventually bring Saddam down, but it would be a lengthy process.

"This is a long-term operation. We're not talking weeks, we're talking months," an unnamed senior official said.

As the economic embargo starts to bite and the Iraqi people start suffering, Saddam will "reach a state where he is going to have to make a decision; either face a rebellion or strike out and go to war," the senior official said.

"The feeling is here that these people have gone through eight years of war. There's no way they'll be able to sustain the sort of drive he would require," he added.

U.S. spy satellites watching Iraqi troops

WASHINGTON (R) — If Iraqi troops head towards the Saudi Arabian border, U.S. forces should be able to see them coming through sophisticated "eye-in-the-sky" satellites that can pick out objects as small as a grapefruit from 500 kilometres up.

Each of the half-dozen KH-11 or Lacrosse spy satellites passes over the Gulf area every few hours sending pictures back to U.S. intelligence agencies while other satellites can pick up radio communications, intelligence experts said.

"The KH-11 can distinguish an object that has a dimension of six inches (15 cm)," said Jeffrey Richelson of the National Security Agency, a non-profit research institute. He said the Lacrosse can pick up objects 1.5 metres in diameter.

The information is sent back to U.S. intelligence analysts through tracking and data relay satellites that can transmit millions of bits of data per second.

Iraqi tanks and trucks would be easy to spot going across the flat,

treeless desert but the satellites can see through clouds if necessary.

The satellites normally are used to check on the Soviet Union but can be shifted towards the Middle East. Richelson said they had sent back detailed photos of damage caused by the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear plant and the Armenian earthquake.

Iraqi troops were seen massing on the border with Kuwait several days before the August 2 invasion but the United States still seemed to be surprised when the attack began.

President George Bush said Wednesday at a news conference that he did not think U.S. intelligence was at fault.

"No, I don't feel let down by the intelligence at all," Bush, a former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) director, said.

"When you plan a surprise attack that's launched at two o'clock in the morning, that's pretty hard to stop, particularly when you have just been given the word of the people involved that there wouldn't be any such attack."

Americans back Bush but fear war with Iraq

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans strongly support President Bush's decision to send troops to Saudi Arabia, even though most believe the United States is headed towards war with Iraq, according to polls released Friday.

Survey respondents also supported the embargo of Iraqi oil, and many said they would accept higher gasoline prices to make it work. But most blamed last week's jumps in gasoline prices on oil company greed, not the embargo.

Iraq invaded neighbouring Kuwait last week and annexed it Wednesday. Bush dispatched U.S. troops to deter an Iraqi attack on Saudi Arabia, explaining his move in a televised address to the nation Wednesday.

National newspaper USA Today, in a survey of 610 people, found that 81 per cent supported sending troops to Saudi Arabia. CBS News, surveying 773 people Tuesday and Wednesday, found 63 per cent approval. And a poll of 769 people Wednesday by ABC news and the Washington

Post found 74 per cent support. "The bottom line is basically this is a popular action," said Kathleen A. Frankovic, pollster for CBS. "While there may be clouds over the horizon, right now they're still in the distance."

Polls conducted on breaking news events tend to measure visceral reactions, and the surveys found immediate fears of war were high. Seventy-three per cent in the USA Today poll said U.S. forces are likely to end up in combat against Iraqi forces.

Similarly, 66 per cent in the CBS poll called it likely that the situation in the Middle East will lead to an extended war involving the United States. Twenty-two per cent called that "very likely," 44 per cent "somewhat likely."

In the USA Today and CBS surveys, 49 per cent favoured using U.S. troops to try to force Iraq out of Kuwait. Support for economic and political sanctions was considerably higher.

The telephone surveys had error margins of plus or minus four percentage points.

Excerpts from Saddam speech

AMMAN (Agencies) — Here are excerpts from the statement Friday from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, which was monitored in Bahrain:

"The foreigner used to respect the Arab and did not trample them under foot nor their sacred shrines and the Arabs were one nation... they were dignified. The ruler was a wise man and one of the most courageous, leading the vanguard wherever the fighting... strong, standing in the front lines... the most generous among them. He was honest and feared God, was loved and respected by his people... a real leader... he distributed the riches of the nation to the people.

"He didn't obey the foreigner... he was close to God and kept distance from evil."

"Look at where the Arabs are today... the foreigner entered our homes, the Western imperialism has divided us, setting up small states to facilitate the task of occupying Arab land... imperialism made sure they guaranteed the major points by creating those states, kept away the riches from the majority. With the riches in a minority, it was used for the foreigner and the minority ruler. They used schemes to help the imperialists. Because of this condition, they give the worst picture of the Arabs to the foreigners because of their shameful behaviour. Stooges of the foreigner.

"There had to be a fundamental correction of this picture changing this minority control that is spreading disease in the body of the majority. And so, in the south of Iraq, Iraq responded to save Kuwait and on the day of the call we responded.

"The traitors who betrayed the nation collapsed... it is the battle of the entire Arab Nation the battle of freedom from hunger and humiliation away from God. It's the beginning for the foreigners to respect the Arab demand and respond to them everywhere. It's the gain on which the Palestinians

can base.

"The colonialists, to ensure their petroleum interests... set up those disfigured petroleum states. Through this, they kept the wealth away from the masses of this nation.

"This new wealth came into the hands of the few to be exploited for the benefit of the foreigner and those few new rulers... financial and social corruption spread.

"The imperialists, deviators, merchants, political agents, the servants of the foreigner and Zionism all stood up against Iraq only because it represents the conscience of the (Arab) Nation and its ability to safeguard its honour and rights against any harm.

"Iraq O Arabs is your Iraq... it is the candle of right to snuff out darkness.

"...For these reasons and under these circumstances, the American forces have arrived and the Saudi doors opened to them under the false pretext that the Iraqi army would continue its holy march towards them.

"Denials and clarifications did not work, which means that there are deliberate and aggressive intentions against Iraq... joint political plots between them (the Saudis) and the foreigner have been exposed... in addition to their financial machinations to aggress on Iraq, which they tried to do individually.

"The rulers there have not only belittled their people and the Arab Nation when they perpetrated their evils... and other acts before that. They have not only challenged the Arab and Muslim nations but continued in the wrong to challenge God when they put the Mecca of the Muslims and the tomb of Prophet Mohammad under the spears of the foreigner.

"O Arabs, O Muslims and faithfuls everywhere. This is your day to rise and defend Mecca which is captured by the spears of the Americans and the Zionists. Revolt against oppression, corruption, treachery and backstabbing... keep the foreigner away

from your holy shrines and raise your voices and evoke the honour of your rulers so that we all stand as one to expel darkness and expose those rulers who know no sense of honour.

"Revolt against the oil emirs who accept to push the Arab women into whoredom.

"Tell the infidels that there is no place for them in the land of the Arabs after they squandered the peoples' rights and humiliated their dignity and honour.

"Rise up against evil, against the foreigner who has trampled our sacred rights. Keep the foreigner away from our sacred shrines... tell the traitors there is no place for them on the soil of the Arabs after they humiliated Arab honour and dignity.

"Burn the land under the feet of the aggressive invaders who have evil designs against your people in Iraq.

"Strike at their interests everywhere. Save Mecca and the tomb of Prophet Mohammad in Medina.

"To our brothers in Egypt... to the sons of (former Egyptian President) Gamal Abdul Nasser, it is your day to prevent the foreigner and his fleets from passing through the skies of Egypt and the Suez Canal.

"To the sons of the Strait of Hormuz (Oman and Iran) prevent their fleets from passing, you and the faithful men in Ras Al Khaimah and Sharjah (two of the United Arab Emirates).

"Your brothers in Iraq are determined to (continue) jihad without any hesitation or retreat and without any fear from the foreigner's power.

"Victory with God's will. We shall be victorious, God willing, and evil and corruption will be trampled wherever it is, and the sun will rise on the Arabs and the Muslims and God will be happy. After we purify our souls and land from the foreigners. Oh brothers, denounce them. Hit their interests wherever they are and rescue Holy Mecca..."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:10 Football
18:00 News summary
18:10 Local programme
19:50 Programme review
20:30 News in Arabic
21:30 Programme review
21:45 Local programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:50 Cartoons
18:10 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 French varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties programme
20:30 News in Arabic
20:30 Hey Dad
21:10 Doc. "Path of the Rain God"
22:00 News in English
22:30 Hunter — "Broken Dreams"

PRAYER TIMES

04:26 Fajr
05:22 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:41 Dhuhr
16:21 'Asr
19:30 Maghrib
20:55 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetlik, Tel. 810740

Assembly of God Church, Tel. 63705

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 683240

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrence Church Tel. 622566

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 777751

Assiout International Church Tel. 683326

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Restricted evacuation of foreigners from Baghdad continues through Jordan

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The restricted evacuation of foreigners from Iraq continued Saturday with over 1,500 Arabs and Asians and a trickle of 35 Westerners crossing the Iraqi-Jordanian border at Rutba, officials and witnesses said.

The most "dramatic" phase of Saturday's crossing came when a group of 10 Americans — later identified only as seven women, two men and one child (and five dogs and two cats) — were whisked away in utmost secrecy from the Rutba border post to an Amman hotel, witnesses said.

"They were taken in a bus, with curtains drawn and the bus did not stop at the border post," said a Jordan Times photographer at the scene. "Obviously their passports were stamped as soon as the bus crossed the border and then the bus sped to Amman," Youssef Al 'Allan said.

The group — one of them a U.S. embassy official, eight dependents of embassy staff and a "summer intern" (a student working with the mission under assignment by the State Department) — arrived at Regency Palace Hotel and was later driven to airport for a flight out. It was not immediately known whether they were flying out aboard a chartered flight or an Air France

flight (the only regular flight late at night).

According to John Owens, head of the United States Information Agency (USIA) in Amman, who supervised the process: "Those in the group who are American government officials will not talk to the press" under standing orders from the State Department, and "the dependents have decided that they do not want to talk to the press."

"We have to respect their right to privacy," Owens told the Jordan Times in the lobby of the hotel.

It was not immediately clear whether the group included dependents of U.S. Embassy staff in Kuwait or Baghdad or a mixture of both. Informed sources confirmed that the group had originally sought to cross Friday but were returned from the Iraqi side.

Another American citizen, identified later as 10-year-old Penelope Nabokov, also crossed Saturday but her whereabouts remained a "mystery" in line with a request from her parents that she does not speak to the press, a source said.

The girl was among a group of passengers aboard a British Airways flight which was stranded at Kuwait Airport after the Iraqi take-over on Aug. 2. Some of the passengers were later transferred to Baghdad, and the whereabouts of the others were not immediately

known. The girl was taken in a separate American Embassy car from the border to Amman, 'Allan reported.

Among non-Arabs who arrived in Amman by Saturday evening were 23 Japanese tourists, five officials from the West German Embassy in Kuwait and one Soviet citizen (it was not immediately known whether he was an official), sources said.

Others included dozens of Indians, Pakistanis, Sri Lankans, Thais, Filipinos and several East Europeans, according to the sources. It remained unclear Saturday whether the Iraqi authorities had allowed all Asian, African, Latin American and East European nations to leave regardless of their residence status or denied exit permits to European and North American national who held residence permits for Kuwait or Iraq (diplomats are not included in the ban).

A Japanese Embassy official said another group of Japanese was expected to cross late Saturday.

Approached by the Jordan Times, USIA official Apar Hagopian referred the Jordan Times to a statement made by the State Department spokesman that a "drawdown" was expected on American Embassy staff and dependents in Kuwait and Baghdad. "You have to draw your conclusions from that," Hagopian said.



A child plays while a pick up loaded with household goods awaits to cross the Iraqi-Jordanian border (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Expatriates with cars face dilemma at Iraqi border

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Several hundred Jordanians working in Kuwait are facing the dilemma of a choice between staying with their vehicles or proceeding home without them from the Iraqi-Jordanian border after the Iraqi authorities imposed a regulation that they could not leave Iraq with their Kuwaiti-licence plate vehicles, informed sources said Saturday.

"There are at least three hundred vehicles of all kinds waiting at the Iraqi border post at Rutba," said one source, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

A European, who crossed the border late Friday, confirmed that "there were a lot of cars parked at the Iraqi border post and there was a lot of argument."

Most of the vehicles, which included "cars, pick-ups, small and medium-size vans," bore Arabic-language licence plate and therefore it was impossible for him to make out to which country they belonged to, the European said. "Some people appeared to opt for abandoning their cars and take a bus," he added.

Jordan Times photographer Youssef Al 'Allan, who visited the border several times over the past four days, said the border authorities were permitting the passengers to leave but not the vehicles. "Most of them appear to be Kuwaiti

licensed," he said. About 350,000 Jordanian passport holders (including West Bank and Gaza residents travelling on two-year documents) used to work in Kuwait before the Iraqi take-over of the country on Aug. 2.

Jordanian officials confirmed that they had heard complaints over the Iraqi regulation from Jordanians who opted to leave their car on the Iraqi side and opt for buses to continue their journey home. "We have not heard anything official yet," said a source at the Public Security Department.

No senior ministry official was immediately available for comment.

Kuwait had the biggest Jordanian expatriate community before the Iraqi take-over and thousands of them have returned home overland across Iraq as well as Saudi Arabia since then. No accurate number of the returnees was immediately available, but officials as well as others said at least 5,000 to 6,000 had crossed across Iraq and about 25,000 to 30,000 had come in through Saudi Arabia until Friday evening.

Under normal practices, Jordanian expatriates returning home with foreign licensed vehicles are given three-month temporary permits for the vehicles. This could be renewed if the vehicle is taken out of the country and brought back.

Ministry of Supply reassures people of sufficient foodstuff

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Supply has rented a silo from the private sector in the port city of Aqaba capable of storing up to 17,000 tonnes of rice in order to cope with the increased quantities of rice imported from other countries, according to the ministry's Secretary-General Radi Ibrahim.

"The Ministry of Supply owns 40 huge depots to store food supplies in addition to various silos located in different governorates," Ibrahim said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, to reassure the public about the sufficient food supplies available in Jordan.

Ibrahim was speaking in the wake of a reassuring statement issued by Minister of Supply Ibrahim Ayyoub who toured the main depots at Juweideh, south of here, and said that Jordan has food supplies to meet the country's needs for at least six more months.

At present the ministry's stores are full of wheat, sugar rice, powder milk, poultry meat, oil and animal feed of all types. "Storage is estimated as exceeding by at least 50 per cent of Jordan's actual needs of these commodities," Ibrahim said in his statement.

Ibrahim said that the ministry's stores were full of frozen poultry meat and the country has additional quantities of fresh poultry meat as well.

"The ministry is not supplying the market with the frozen poultry to give the chance to the fresh poultry to be sold, but once shortage happens, the ministry will start selling frozen poultry," said Ibrahim.

At present, however, the Ministry of Supply is providing the military and the Civil Service Consumer Corporation with limited amounts of frozen poultry, Ibrahim added.

He said that olive oil, imported from Spain and Tunisia was sufficient for the country's needs until August 1991, and that powder milk was available in huge quantities.

The reassurances came amid a wave of panic buying on the part of consumers who have been hoarding foodstuff and other supplies in the wake of the developments in the Gulf region.

Both Ayyoub and Ibrahim appealed to members of the public to refrain from hoarding and spreading panic which, they said, is totally unjustified.

Jordan Television showed the



Ibrahim Ayyoub

minister touring the warehouses at Juweideh and other regions, the warehouses appeared full of all types of food supplies.

In advising against stockpiling any type of food, the minister said that such practice could deprive others of their requirements. Ibrahim said that the ministry was committed to distribution programme, providing various government stores with their normal needs of foodstuffs, and that the ministry was continuing to import additional supplies for the future.

Kuwaitis in Jordan manifest mixed reactions to Cairo summit

By Mariam M. Shablin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Kuwaitis stranded in Jordan had mixed reactions over the results of the Arab summit which was concluded Friday evening in Cairo.

While Kuwaitis expressed anger over Iraq's take-over of their country and announced union between them, several expressed extreme anger of the intervention of American and other foreign military forces in the region.

"Yes, we are not happy over our situation right now, but no, we do not accept that foreign powers interfere in Arab affairs," one Kuwaiti lawyer now stranded in Jordan said.

"I was in Baghdad when the invasion took place and I am an Arab nationalist and therefore I believe in Arab unity. As a Kuwaiti pan-Arabist I do not allow myself to approve of any foreign intervention in the area, in this particular situation or any other," the lawyer said.

Although not all Kuwaitis who spoke to the Jordan Times expressed opposition to the de-

ployment of Arab troops by 12 Arab countries to Saudi Arabia, several spoke out against it.

"If they were just Arab troops then fine, send them to Saudi Arabia or wherever you wish on whatever mission," said a Kuwaiti academic. "But how can the Arab countries agree to have their troops fight alongside American troops against Iraq?" he asked.

Those interviewed praised Jordan and the Jordanian people for their "hospitality," with most saying that despite the generally pro-Iraqi stand of the Jordanian government and people it had in no way effected the treatment of Kuwaitis stranded in Jordan.

Jordanians were equally anxious to stress that the Kuwaitis were "at home" in the Kingdom. "Our homes are open to all Kuwaitis in need, for as long as they need them or want them," said a member of the Mnoor family in Marj Al Hamam in the presence of his Kuwaiti guests.

Kuwaitis who had arrived in Jordan after the take-over said that neither Saudi Arabia nor

Jordan had required that they show passports or travel documents as they crossed the borders.

Kuwaitis staying in Jordan confirmed that the exchange rate at the banks was still one Jordanian dinar for every Kuwaiti dinar. There were rumours yesterday that the Kuwaiti dinar had even depreciated more in value. Embassy officials said yesterday that those Kuwaitis who were running out of money were being provided with free accommodations as well as financial help by the embassy. "We are very grateful for the way we are being treated here," a Kuwaiti student told the Jordan Times. "We were hoping that a more definite solution would have been agreed upon at the Cairo summit and that foreign powers would not be allowed to interfere," added the student, who has been in Jordan on a summer vacation for two months.

Officials at the Kuwaiti embassy could not give exact figures as to how many Kuwaiti tourists and businessmen had actually been stranded in Jordan since the Aug. 2 take-over.

Irbid sports city inaugurated

IRBID (J.T.) — A sports city, which includes a gymnasium seating 2,000 persons, an Olympic stadium accommodating 15,000 spectators, a sports training hall, swimming pools as well as other facilities, was inaugurated here Saturday as part of the country's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne.

Minister of Youth Ibrahim Al Ghabashah and the first deputy to the Chinese Minister of State

for Economic and Trade Relations Li Lanchen opened the sports city at a ceremony attended by local officials and dignitaries.

Work on the Olympic sports city, in Irbid, called Al Hassan Sports City, started in 1987 after China pledged to supply almost half of the cost of the project, which, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, amounted to JD 10 million.

"The sports city is a gift from King Hussein to the people in the Irbid Governorate on the anniversary of his accession to the throne," Ghabashah said in an address at the ceremony.

The minister thanked the Chinese government for its contribution to this great achievement which, he said, reflect the excellent relations between China and Jordan.

Quiet trading at Amman exchange

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman Financial Market (AFM) was quiet in the past week, and officials reported moderate buying and selling operations.

According to a (AFM) bulletin a total of 998,532 shares exchanged hands worth JD 2,857,819 conducted through 1,889 transactions.

It said that daily trading in shares averaged 199,607 conducted through 378 deals. But, it noted, that the industry

sector acquired the lion's share in the transactions, accounting for 48.9 per cent of the total number of operations together worth JD 1,396,174, followed by banks and financial institutions, which accounted for 39.9 per cent, services 9.9 per cent and insurance at 1.3 per cent of the total number of transactions.

On the whole, the industry sector share dealings dropped by 21.1 per cent over the previous

week while the insurance sector shares registered a decline of 13.6 per cent. Speculators attributed the drop in share transactions and trading to the on going developments the Gulf region.

In general, shares of 61 companies only were trading in the past week with only three companies trading shares at higher prices than the previous week and 53 declined while five retained stable prices.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King receives good wishes

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Saturday celebrated the 38th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne. The King received cables of good wishes from Kings and heads of state of Arab and friendly nations.

Children visit Sahab

AMMAN (J.T.) — Participants in the 10th Arab Children's Congress which is sponsored by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHIF) Saturday visited the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIE) and were briefed on its projects. They were taken on a tour of the Sahab Industrial City where they visited several factories.

Support rally to be held in Mafraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — A rally will be organised in the city of Mafraq Sunday to express support for Iraq and condemn the U.S.-Zionist invasion of Arabia. The rally is to take place near and around the cemetery containing the remains of the Iraqi martyrs who fell in the battles for Palestine.



1989 figures put the number of beggars at 543 (out of whom 230 were women), but a survey last year showed the number was on increase (Jordan Times file photos)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zarq displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).

★ Exhibition of paintings by 10 Iraqi artists at the Jordan Plastic Art Association Gallery.

Survey shows number of beggars on the rise

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Civil Defence Unit (CDU) at the Ministry of Social Development is currently carrying a project designed to rid the country of beggars who, according to the 1989 figures, number about 543. A CDU official said that recent surveys showed that 230 of the total number of beggars and homeless persons were women and that the CDU was processing

each case separately before taking action towards their rehabilitation.

A survey conducted by the ministry last year and released in February this year showed that the number of beggars in Jordan was on the increase and that 66 per cent of the beggars started the profession at the age of 15.

The survey found that most of

the beggars were above 25 years of age and 10 per cent were minors, around 15 years of age.

The highest number of beggars was found in Amman, which accounted for 58 per cent, followed by Irbid, 15 per cent and Zarqa, 9.3 per cent.

To deal with this situation, the official said the Ministry of Social Development set up several in-

situations to cater to the needs of the beggars and the homeless and is spending nearly JD 500,000 in the course of maintaining this service.

According to the official, the ministry has been directing its attention to two other areas: rehabilitating the juvenile delinquents and the adult persons serving jail sentences.

Apart from running schools to rehabilitate the delinquents, he said, the ministry has been conducting studies on 6,392 juvenile delinquency cases in 1989 and 1990. Many visits to homes were made in order to determine the cause of delinquency and to offer help and counselling.

"Counselling is also being done at prisons where those serving jail

sentences are being rehabilitated through help from the Ministry of Social Development," the official said.

"In addition the ministry runs homes for the aged and at present it caters to 61 old men and women in Amman and Zarqa," the official added.

He said that voluntary societies were helping the ministry's endeavours.

Jordan Times

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Sanctions in balance

THOSE WHO exert pressure on our country to comply with the sanctions imposed by the U.N. Security Council against Iraq do not realise what this means to Jordan, and whether the Jordanian economy can tolerate these self-destructing measures.

When the U.S. "convinced" Turkey to join the bond, Turgut Ozal picked a piece of paper and calculated the economic losses to Turkey and found them to exceed \$5 million a day or over \$1.8 billion a year. Secretary Baker did not mention the obligation under international law, but simply undertook to compensate Turkey to the last penny.

When Ozal expressed doubts about possible difficulties in Congress, Baker assured him that it will not be American money.

Why did they not calculate the economic losses of Jordan before demanding compliance in a blockade against an Arab people who dared to challenge Zionism and imperialism.

America does not export more than eight per cent of its domestic product. It can boycott the whole world and withdraw from its export markets without losing more than eight per cent of its production. Jordan has a small and open economy. Its exports of goods and services reached JD 1,350 million in 1989 or 53 per cent of its domestic product. More than half the production capacity in Jordan is meant for export.

Leaving services aside, despite their crucial importance in Jordan's economic structure, we find that Iraq imported some JD 124 million worth of commodities, or 23.2 per cent of Jordan's total commodity exports. This ratio may increase up to 40 per cent if we exclude phosphate and potash. Blocking trade with Iraq will thus deny Jordan 40 per cent of its export markets of agricultural and light industries products. Such a step will break the back of the Jordanian economy, already suffering from high unemployment, heavy indebtedness and huge deficits in its balances.

Jordan also imported last year from Iraq JD 212.7 million worth of Iraqi products, which accounts for 17 per cent of Jordan's total imports including 90 per cent of its oil.

The imposition of sanctions by Jordan against Iraq, if it has to be executed, may not cause a major damage to the Iraqi economy or its military effort, but it will devastate the Jordanian economy and cause a loss in excess of half a billion dollar a year. It will also raise unemployment by a further 12.4 per centage points over the current rate of 16 per cent, and this is before adding the tens of thousands that are working in Kuwait and who may return to join the army of unemployment.

If the world cannot understand and appreciate the national considerations in Jordan's decision making, perhaps it should understand and appreciate the economic considerations.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily on Saturday urged the European nations to adopt an even-handed policy with regard to the Gulf question, and said that the U.N. Security Council resolutions should be implemented in the Middle East and in the Gulf. The paper said now that the European nations have expressed readiness to join in the efforts to find a solution to the problem, they should first refrain from sending in troops to the Gulf to prevent a deterioration of the situation there. The Europeans ought to give the Arab countries a chance to solve their own problems and should turn their attention at the same time to the situation in the Israeli occupied Arab territories and try to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions in these areas as well, the paper noted. Insistence on implementing the council's resolutions on the Iraq-Kuwait conflict without applying the same principle in other parts of the world can only mean an attempt to tamper with international principles and laws, the paper warned. It said that the Israelis have maintained their aggression on the Arabs for many years without any sanctions being imposed on them and without any effective measures imposed by the council to end the occupation of Palestine. Israel which has annexed Arab Jerusalem, the Syrian Golan Heights and parts of Lebanon has escaped world sanctions and now enjoys the result of its occupation and aggressive policies; and it said this situation calls on the Europeans to step up their efforts to establish justice.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily calls on the government to help initiate a royal decree that would enable parliament to discuss the ongoing events in the Gulf. Salah Abdul Samad says that the extraordinary session can not, under the provisions of the constitution, debate any questions beyond topics clearly stated in the royal decree which called parliament for the present session, and therefore the Gulf affair can not be debated. He notes that the events and developments are moving fast, and there is need for the representative of the people to discuss Jordan's stand vis-a-vis these events, and help the government take the proper decisions. But article 82 of the constitution prevents parliament from such discussion, since it is not included in the royal decree, the writer notes. A speedy government action in this direction is needed to help avoid any violation of the constitution, says Abdul Samad. Parliament, he said, should be able to express the real feelings and stand of the Jordanian people with regard to the Iraq-Kuwait situation.

Swat Al Sha'ab Arabic daily expressed deep pain over the outcome of the Arab League summit in Cairo, and said that despite the efforts this summit has not brought out an unanimous decision to deal with the problem in the Gulf. The summit in Cairo has failed to condemn foreign power presence on Arab soil, although such condemnation has been demanded by all Arab masses which have paid dearly and continue to pay as a result of the presence of foreign forces and foreign powers imposing hegemony on Arab countries, the paper noted. But the paper said that failure to reach a consensus on means of handling this problem should not deter those Arab leaders who are sincere and who are concerned over the future of their people and the Arab nation.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

What outsiders should understand about the Gulf

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

TO A foreign journalist rushing to Amman to cover the Gulf crisis, quite a few issues may not readily be understandable. Most of the questions asked deal with the details and implications of a certain issue rather than with basics and fundamentals of that issue. Here are some examples.

A question that is often heard is why the Jordanian public opinion is so overwhelming and blunt in supporting Iraq unconditionally and irrespective of what happened to Kuwait? The simple answer is that Jordan is one of the very few Arab countries with any measure of democracy and freedom of press and expression. Given that the Jordanians have been free to express their true feelings and reflect the true mood of the Arab people, only the Egyptian press, which is owned and run by the gov-

ernment and the ruling party, and some other media organs, contend that the Jordanian press reflects the position of the government. Foreign observers in Amman hopefully realise that the press here is indeed reflecting the position of the man in the street in its handling of the situation in the Gulf.

A second question is asked about why the Jordanian people and press are less sensitive to the plight of their Kuwaiti brothers? The answer is that Jordan was even-handed when the crisis erupted between Iraq and Kuwait. Jordan tried to intervene to prevent escalation and reach a peaceful solution to the conflict. But after August 2 the problem was not between two Arab states any more. It developed to become an issue of foreign intervention in internal Arab affairs. We

cannot be neutral between Iraq and Israel, or, for that matter, between Iraq and imperialistic powers, new (America) and old (Britain). That explains why the pan-Arab nationalists in Jordan have been appealing to the Syrian leadership urging it to end the bitter rivalry with the regime in Iraq, because the question now was no more just an inter-Arab problem but also a matter of Arab solidarity against foreign aggression. Jordanians are definitely grateful for the Kuwaiti government and people for their past assistance to Jordan, but we don't feel that they are now a party in a bloody dispute, and we understand fully that they come last on the worries of Americans and Israelis who only want to control Arab oil and suppress the resurrection of pan-Arab nationalism.

Another question is why we

might not sound to care for the sovereignty of Kuwait. "Don't you understand that Jordan may be the next target on the Iraqi president's hit list?" they ask. Well, our answer to such a question is that we in the Arab World, rightly or wrongly, think of ourselves as one nation. In the same way that the Germans are one nation, irrespective of the number of states and regimes they or we may have. There is no Arab people or Arab ruler who openly disputes this universal fact. The borders between Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq were agreed upon between a British officer and a French counterpart. The borders between the Sheikdoms of the Gulf were marked in the desert by painted barrels by the British occupation. The Arab bedouins of the area do not recognise any of these borders. As

a matter of fact they move freely, with their sheep, between Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia on seasonal basis, without passports or even checking in or out at the border points. This practice is legal and formally approved by the states concerned.

A fourth question that is generally put to us is why the Jordanian government decided to comply with the economic sanctions against Iraq? My personal answer is that I don't know. I was surprised because such move runs counter to the people's will which the government should take note of under democracy. However, my hunch is that Jordan must have been subjected to a huge pressure from America and the West, coupled with threats from Israel. The Jordanian government may have acted on what is the best interest of

Jordan's national security. There is no doubt that Jordan stands to lose a lot with the demise of Kuwait. But, in the Middle East, economic considerations do not have sway over political considerations. In our case we are giving the national considerations our utmost attention. However, I am not saying that the Jordanian people don't care about their direct economic self-interest. Only that they are ready to sacrifice short-term economic interests for long-term ones and for strengthening national security.

We now realise that pan-Arab security could not be achieved in the individual Arab states irrespective of their wealth, area, or population. Security, however, can and should be achieved for the Arab nation as a whole.

Operation 'desert field' may turn into 'long stay' occupation

By Gene Gibbons
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Unlike the dispatch of U.S. troops to Panama last year, an action essentially completed in days, operation "desert shield" could keep American combat forces in the Gulf region indefinitely, administration officials and analysts say.

"Desert shield" is the defence department's code name for the deployment of U.S. soldiers and warplanes to Saudi Arabia to defend the desert kingdom from possible Iraqi attack.

"Standing up for our principles will not come easy. It may take time and possibly cost a great deal," President George Bush warned when he announced the deployment on Wednesday.

"We don't know how long it will last. We don't know when it will end. We don't know how events will unfold over the next few months," Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said.

Bush, who acted in response to Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, said there were four U.S. objectives — the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, the restoration of Kuwait's legitimate government, Gulf security and stability and protection of American lives.

"I don't want to predict how long it will take ... but I think it will be a longer rather than a shorter period," a senior U.S. official said.

"We are prepared for a long

stay if necessary. We've said that from day one," Bush Spokesman Martin Fitzwater commented.

Bush believes United Nations economic sanctions against Iraq will carry the day because "nobody can stand up forever to total economic deprivation."

He warned Iraq on Friday not to try to defy United Nations sanctions and ship oil out of the Gulf.

"I'm not prepared to use the

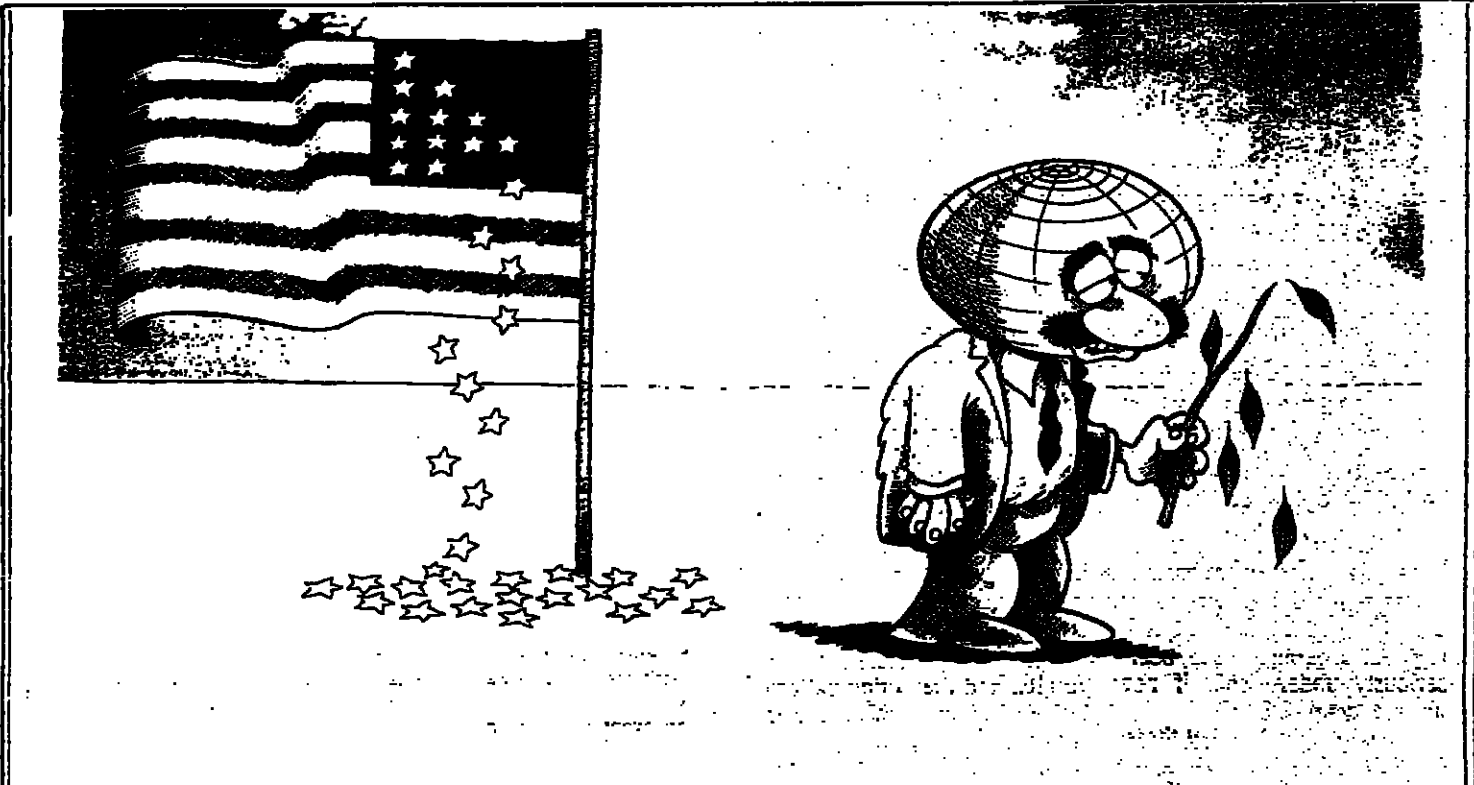
"I don't want to predict how long it will take ... but I think it will be a longer rather than a shorter period," a senior U.S. official said.

word blockade, but we are prepared. We're moving ships," he said. "I would advise Iraqi ships not to go out with oil."

U.S. officials said a multinational naval blockade of Iraq was under active consideration to tighten the economic squeeze on Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"Obviously a blockade is a means of enforcement. Planning is under way to undertake a blockade if one becomes necessary," Fitzwater said.

There is widespread agree-



Buyers' market in the weapons trade

ment that the U.N. sanctions will take time to work. Although Iraq is heavily dependent on food imports, some U.S. officials believe its food stockpiles are sufficient to last into the winter.

U.S. officials and analysts also agree that maintaining domestic and international political support for Bush's "line in the sand" will be difficult.

"The president has to do a thorough job of educating the American people about what's at stake," said Donald McHenry, who served as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations during the 1979-1981 Iran hostage crisis.

"It's a question of paying the price now or letting Saddam Hussein go on his way, gobbling up countries and getting into a position to strangle the

international economy," he said.

Iraq and Kuwait together produce nearly five million barrels of oil a day — 20 per cent of the total produced by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Bush, who started a three-week stay at his seaside home in Maine on Friday, also will have to "constantly prod other countries to continue to isolate

"Iraq," McHenry added.

Administration officials are painfully aware of other factors that could affect the duration of the crisis — and are reluctant to discuss them publicly.

A threat to the safety of the thousands of foreigners now detained in Iraq and Kuwait would bring matters to a head very quickly, they suggest, as would further Iraqi military action.

Venezuela's loyalty to OPEC put to test

By Andrew Hurst
Reuters

CARACAS — Venezuela is trying to balance loyalty to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries with growing pressure from its oil industry to reap gains from the Gulf crisis.

Mounting Gulf tension since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait has thrown into sharp focus Venezuela's potential as a stable and secure source of oil for the United States, prompting calls from within the industry to turn up the taps without delay.

"It may be in Venezuela's interest to hike production but it does not want to look like it is taking advantage of the troubles in the Arab World," Horacio Atencio Bello, a Caracas-based economist, said.

But the view gaining ground in the oil industry is that with domestic production falling in the United States, Venezuela's future clearly lies in providing oil at stable prices to the North American market, analysts said.

President Carlos Andres Perez told U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle earlier in the week that Venezuela could raise output by up to 500,000 barrels per day (b/d) to help make up the shortfall from the embargo on Iraqi oil.

Perez has also made clear, however, he does not want to upset his colleagues in OPEC, who he believes are already,

shaken enough by the dramatic events in the Gulf, by pumping more oil before consulting them.

He has sent Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo to key OPEC states, including Saudi Arabia, in an apparent effort to get an agreement on how to raise output to offset the cut-off in supplies from Iraq and Kuwait.

Venezuela is bound by an OPEC production quota of 1.945 million b/d even though it has the capacity to pump at least 2.4 million b/d for a sustained period.

The government's cautious approach is thought to have deeply frustrated state oil company Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA), whose chairman, Andres Sosa Pietri, has made no secret of his distaste for quota-busting by other OPEC nations.

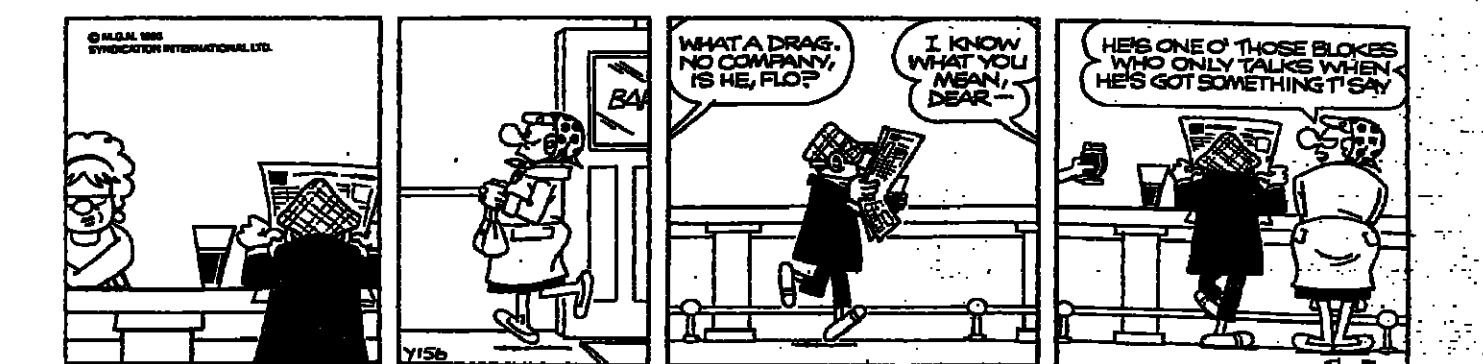
But Alberto Quiros Corradi, a former top state oil industry executive, said: "if you have a crisis, then standards of obligation are different ... I think the Venezuelan government lost the opportunity to show statesmanship."

"They should immediately have told the United States, 'you can count on me. If the need arises, the oil is there'." Oil industry analysts believe that PDVSA is already storing its excess output but officials will not comment. PDVSA can store some 120 million barrels in its U.S., Caribbean and European oil depots.

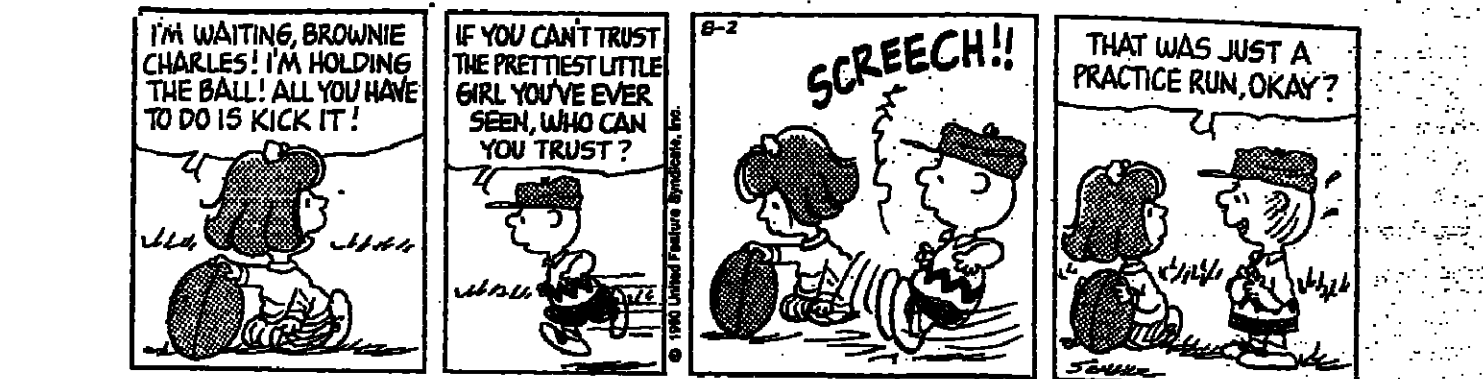
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Bhutto's departure signals 'gale warnings' for Kashmir

By Ruth Pitchford
Reuters

NEW DELHI — The sacking of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto this week aroused Indian hostility and uncertainty over relations strained by insurgency in Kashmir.

Politicians condemned Bhutto's dismissal by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and most foreign policy analysts saw it as giving the Pakistani army a free hand to back Muslim militants battling Indian rule in Kashmir.

"This is a take-over by the military in civilian garb," said Rajendra Saran, an expert on Indo-Pakistani relations.

Ishaq Khan declared a state of emergency and dissolved the national assembly. Such declarations give extra powers to the government and can mean curtailment of fundamental rights.

Some political scientists were less sceptical of Ishaq Khan's promise to hold elections on Oct. 24 and said the domestic turmoil might temporarily distract Pakistanis from the eight-month-old revolt in India's only Muslim-majority state.

Other said Bhutto's departure increased the threat of a fourth Indo-Pakistani war.

India maintains Kashmir militants are armed and trained by Pakistan's military intelligence, dismissing Islamabad's denials. Islamabad also denies Indian allegations that it supports Sikh separatists in India's Punjab state.

"The army can take (caretaker Prime Minister) Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi for granted," said former



diplomat A.P. Venkateswaran. "Everyone would do well to put out the gale warnings over Kashmir."

The neighbours have fought three wars — two of them over Kashmir — since Pakistan was carved as an Islamic state from the subcontinent on independence from Britain in 1947.

Tatvi, director of the independent public opinion Trends Research Group which advises the government on Indian attitudes to foreign issues, said he believed the Pakistani army did not favour another direct confrontation over Kashmir.

But he added: "This could be the beginning of a more aggressive (Pakistani) attitude... the military will step up covert operations."

Most analysts saw Bhutto's dismissal as precipitated by her failure to rally sufficiently strident support from other Islamic states for the Kashmir militants.

The Islamic Conference Organisation, at a meeting in Cairo where the issue was overtaken by Iraq's take-over of Kuwait, accused India on Sunday of human rights violations in Kashmir but urged Pakistan to settle the dispute peacefully.

The two countries began talks last month which seemed to have eased tensions over the insurgency.

One Indian diplomat said he saw no toughening of Pakistan's diplomatic stance in the talks, due to continue this month. Most foreign policy analysts agreed, saying army pressure had already forced Bhutto to adopt a hawkish line.

But Indian politicians, always quick to denounce Pakistan's history of military coups and political instability, said the dismissal of an elected government would make it more difficult for New Delhi to deal with Islamabad.

"This is bound to be a setback to the process that had begun in Indo-Pakistani relations," said Harkishan Singh Surjeet of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), a government ally.

"It's shocking, really," said Jaipal Reddy, spokesman for Janata Dal, main component of the ruling national front. "The democracy which was just struggling to return in Pakistan has been given short shrift."

Saddam relives Iraqi history

By Lyndsay Griffiths
Reuters

WASHINGTON — While Western politicians dismiss Saddam Hussein as just another crazed dictator, historians say the Iraqi president rules with calculated logic, using a glorious past to justify his action and colourful Arab myths to mobilise his people.

"He's got an awful lot of history to draw from if he wants to manufacture myths of Iraqi supremacy," said Professor Robert Hadley of Georgetown University.

"And he's striking a very responsive chord. Saddam may be mad, he may even be a neo-Hitler but he is not stupid. An effective propagandist knows his audience," said Hadley.

Saddam's propaganda promises money and power — just what his audience wants to hear. Crippled by the costly war with Iran, Iraqis deeply resent other Arab's oil wealth.

Saddam knows this and has defended his week-old invasion

of Kuwait as a "holy war to place the wealth of the nation at the service of its noble objectives."

And while their Mesopotamian ancestors are credited with ruling over "the cradle of civilisation" Iraqis are painfully aware how far the mighty are fallen.

In distant centuries, Iraq was the seat of several vast empires, such as Babylonia, stretching from the Mediterranean to the Gulf. So this week Baghdad simply said it had "return (ed) the part and branch, Kuwait, to the whole and the Iraq of its origins."

Annexing Kuwait could be just the start, analysts say.

"He has talked about Kuwait being part of the ancestral lands of the Iraqi people. That's alarming," said Hadley.

A Princeton university historian who would not be named said Saddam was deluded by grandeur, modelling himself on three men of mythical stature: Nebuchadnezzar, who ruled Babylonia; Gamal Abdul Nasser, who led Egypt; and Saladin, who conquered the Crusaders.

"You're dealing with myths," he said. "Saddam has his role models. He brags about himself as the new Nebuchadnezzar."

Nebuchadnezzar ruled Babylonia from 605 BC until his death in 562 BC. Dismissed in the old testament as conceited, domineering and mad, Nebuchadnezzar, nonetheless, revitalised and expanded an already magnificent empire.

He rebuilt the razed city of Babylon, turning it into a lustre of colour and luxury. Just like Nebuchadnezzar, Saddam has also taken great pains to restore this ancient city.

And last year Saddam even offered a reward to whomever could reconstruct the water system of Nebuchadnezzar's hanging gardens of Babylon, one of the seven ancient wonders of the world.

Saddam may also picture himself treading in the footsteps of Nasser, the adored late Egyptian leader.

Twenty years after his death, Nasser — the main founder of

pan-Arab socialism — lives on as the man who urged Arabs to throw off colonialism and unite in self-love.

But Hadley said: "The sense today of being Arab as part of one grand nation is very difficult to maintain."

"It's a very fragile unity, so I think you're going to hear him start talking about Arab unity in the great days of Islam," he said. Enter Saladin, a 12th century Muslim warrior and sultan of Egypt, who empowered the Christian crusaders in battles now cloaked in mythical chivalry.

With U.S.-led multinational forces converging on the Gulf, it could be time for Saddam to play this last card and hope it gathers regional support against today's Western crusaders.

"He's held off so far," said Hadley. "But Saddam is well aware that when all else fails, the people are deeply religious and surrounded by the ruins of their history. It's a logical move to try and touch bases with that mentality."

Japanese sanctions mark long road to diplomatic bandwagon

By Larry Thorson
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Three years ago Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone conceded it was "only too true" to say that Japan was getting a free ride through the turmoil of warfare in the Gulf.

Now Nakasone is out of office, and the Iran-Iraq war has been referred to as the longest of basing foreign policy on domestic economic considerations.

Japanese news reports said the delay resulted from a conflict between the Foreign Ministry, which urged the government to join the United States and Europe in imposing sanctions, and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, which argued that sanctions would badly hurt the Japanese economy.

"Sanctions — easier said than done," said a headline in Sunday's Mainichi Daily News on an article quoting an anonymous trade ministry official saying an oil embargo would send fuel prices up in Japan and also stop Iraq's repayments on 700 billion yen (\$4.6 billion) worth of Japanese loans.

In the end, pressure from the United States helped tip the balance, a Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) commentator said. U.S. President George Bush telephoned Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu Saturday urging Tokyo to join Washington in an embargo

it appeared that Japan's only reaction would be its issuing Friday of administrative guidance to banks and financial institutions to freeze Kuwaiti assets in Japan, estimated at \$20 billion.

Although Japan now declares it is moving towards full global partnership with the United States, its hesitance in its Iraq policy shows how hard it is to break the habit of basing foreign policy on domestic economic considerations.

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go of Iraqi oil and other economic measures against Baghdad. All 100 members of the U.S. Senate urged Japan to take "mandatory and comprehensive" sanctions against Iraq.

Kaifu met late Sunday with top cabinet members to make a decision, postponing a plan to travel to Hiroshima later Sunday to join ceremonies Monday for the 45th anniversary of the atomic bombing of the city.

The resulting sanctions are the toughest Japan has ever imposed, NHK reported.

Growing more than four per cent annually in recent years, the Japanese economy is one of the world's most robust. It is not as reliant on oil as it was during the 1973-74 "oil shock," when the Arab oil embargo knocked Japan into a recession. Then oil provided 78 per cent of Japan's energy needs, as opposed to 57 per cent now.

But Japan still relies on imports for 99 per cent of its oil and about 70 per cent of that comes from the Middle East. Some powerful Japanese companies are active in dealing with Iraq and Kuwait, and could suffer significant setbacks in an oil embargo on those countries.

Japan received 6.2 per cent of its oil from Iraq in the first quarter of 1990, importing an average of 260,000 barrels a day. It obtained five per cent of its oil from Kuwait, or 210,000 barrels a

day, according to the Trade Ministry.

Japanese companies were criticised for buying Iranian oil in 1979 during the U.S.-Iran dispute, and later when tankers were attacked by both sides in the Iran-Iraq war. Japan came under fire in the U.S. Congress for not doing more to help freedom of navigation in the Gulf.

Nakasone, who tried to lead Japan into a more world-oriented posture during his 1982-87 tenure as prime minister, said in 1987 Japan would be isolated if it did not make a contribution to the international effort to let oil flow out of the Gulf.

Japan subsequently paid for a \$10-million navigation system to monitor ship movements in the Gulf and made a generous package of loans to Jordan and other countries to try to promote stability in the Middle East.

Those measures, and a more evenhanded policy towards Israel, were touted as steps towards a more active Japanese policy in the region.

Earlier this year, Japan flexed its economic power by offering \$1.95 billion in economic aid to Poland and Hungary, developing a policy in another region where Japan had kept a low profile. The surprisingly strong sanctions announced against Baghdad show another area where Japan is willing to force a new policy despite economic risk.

Cairo Arab summit

(Continued from page 1)

did not attend, Libya voted against the resolutions, Morocco voted in favour while Algeria abstained.

This diversities in the positions of the two blocs gave rise to conclusions by Arab analysts that the idea of sub-regional groupings have been seriously undermined, if not dealt a death blow.

"Many had hoped that these sub-regional groupings would facilitate inter-Arab coordination but the Gulf crisis has reshuffled the cards and alliances," an Egyptian political scientist said.

But other Arab analysts pointed out that the lack of coherence among the members of the two sub-regional blocs, particularly the ACC, was already evident in the Baghdad summit.

"But the Cairo summit could prove to have buried the ACC, at least in its previous structure, especially as far as the hostility between Baghdad and Cairo is concerned," according to a Jordanian analyst.

Other Jordanian and Palestinian politicians expected a new bloc to emerge which would include all members of the ACC (Iraq, Jordan, Yemen) minus Egypt, which might be replaced by the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

"Despite the fact that Jordan and Yemen abstained while Iraq and the PLO opposed the summit resolutions they share very strong common interests in opposing

American intervention in the region," a Jordanian political activist observed.

Other analysts argued, however, that such a bloc might not see the light of day, due to the various pressures that each party is facing — but that some form of coordination will come about.

The other feature of the results, and the voting pattern at the summit which raised many questions, was Damascus' implicit approval of the presence of American troops in Saudi Arabia.

The Syrian vote was received with dismay in Jordan, especially by leftist and pan-Arabist groups which had been appealing to Assad, almost on a daily basis, through telegrams and the Jordanian press, to join hands with Iraq against American intervention in the Gulf.

The Syrian position, in addition to the presence of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near and Middle Eastern Affairs John Kelly in Damascus yesterday, gave rise to strong speculation that Damascus might be trying to make a special arrangement with Washington to secure the return of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

Although such speculation could be an over-optimistic explanation of the Syrian stance, the big question remains how the leaders who linked up behind the U.S. position could deal with an increasingly anti-American sentiments in the region.

Thousands expected

(Continued from page 1)

Mohammad Fares Tarawneh, a "Democratic Bloc" deputy from Karak in the Lower House and Mafrag Governor Adli Shdeihat.

The event is expected to be another resounding affirmation of the pro-Iraqi sentiments of the man-of-the-street in Jordan, according to organisers who pointed out that the sentiments were further boosted with the deployment of American forces in Saudi Arabia in what is seen by many as heralding an eventual attack of Iraq.

Approximately 40,000 Jordanians have volunteered to join a peoples army in defence of Iraq if it is attacked by a foreign power. At least 8,000 people participated in an anti-American, pro-Iraqi rally organised by the Muslim Brotherhood Friday. Although the majority of the people attending the rally were Islamists, pan-Arabists and leftist groups participated as well.

"We welcome everyone to participate in the (Mafrag) rally, which will be a show of solidarity with Iraq," said Dr. Rajai Nafae, a member of a seven-member committee drawn from representatives of professional unions. "Quite beneficially, we have named the event 'confrontation' rally." Dr. Nafae, a representative of the Jordan Medical Association (JMA), told the Jordan Times.

Dr. Nafae said he could not give any estimate of expected participation in the rally, particularly that the event falls on a Sunday. However, independent expectations put the figure at between 25,000 to 40,000.

Popular sentiments are running high in support of Saddam and the American troop deployment in Saudi Arabia has added to the feeling," said an official of the committee Saturday night.

Demonstrators attending at least four rallies across Jordan denounced American and foreign military intervention in the region. They also assailed Arab leaders who agreed to send troops to Saudi Arabia to join 50,000 American troops already stationed there.

Iraq holds S. Arabia responsible

(Continued from page 1)

Saudi Arabian anti-aircraft batteries Saturday fired at two Iraqi reconnaissance planes near the Kuwaiti border with the kingdom, diplomatic sources said.

Iraq denied any of its planes were shot at but did not say if any had crossed the border.

The diplomatic sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Saudis fired about 10 rounds at the planes in the Khafji region close to the border, to deter them.

They said the planes turned back without actually crossing the border. Baghdad Radio, quoting a spokesman said: "None of our aircraft conducted any sortie over Saudi territory."

The spokesman said the reports were "some sort of prattle and buffoonery propagated by the suspect quarters that are seeking to undermine great Iraq or to attack it."

In Washington, Defence Department spokesman Miguel Monteverde said he was aware of the report but that "it's unconfirmed by American sources."

Contingents of Egyptian and Moroccan troops landed in the kingdom early Saturday in line

with the Arab summit decision, diplomatic sources said. They said the Egyptian forces were highly trained in chemical warfare. The Arab troops began taking positions side by side with the U.S.-led contingents.

Diplomatic sources, who spoke on condition they not be named, said that each of the two countries will provide not less than 5,000 men. They said that the flow will continue over a number of days, at most a week.

Official sources in Cairo, who refused to be further identified, said that three companies totalling 210 men were deployed in Saudi Arabia on the morning of the first day.

They said that 2,500 soldiers highly trained in chemical warfare and carrying "equipment to be used against poison gas and chemical warfare" were to leave by tonight for Saudi Arabia.

In the next two days, the number of Egyptian troops in Saudi Arabia will reach more than 3,500, they said. The Egyptians would be given weaponry by the Saudis, the Cairo officials said.

The Arab troops were landing at Hafir Al Baten, the same northeastern Saudi base where the U.S. rapid deployment force has building up.

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Puerto Rico, Australia upset favourites at basketball games

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Puerto Rico scored the biggest upset of the men's World Basketball Championship, coming from behind in the last two minutes to defeat favourites and Goodwill Games gold medalists Yugoslavia 82-75.

Australia also defied form to beat highly rated Brazil 69-68 in one of the lowest-scoring games of the 16-nation tournament.

Puerto Rico trailed the favourites 39-56 at the halftime, suffering under a determined onslaught from Drazen Petrovic and Toni Kukoc. But they found their rhythm after the break and went ahead 76-75 when Jose Ortiz landed a foul shot.

Ortiz increased the lead to five points with two jump shots in 26 seconds and George Torres dropped in two free throws to seal Puerto Rico's victory.

Australia managed to control Brazilian star Oscar as they slowed the pace of a sometimes bad-tempered game. Andrew Gaze led the attack and Mark Bradtke rebounded well to help Australia to a place in the quarter-finals.

After two earlier wins, Brazil also qualified for the last eight, where they will be joined by Yugoslavia and Puerto Rico who topped their group.

In another exciting finish, Canada joined the Soviet Union by staging a comeback in the dying minutes. But the Cana-

dians, who came within one point of their powerful opponents, eventually went down 90-81.

Valeri Tikhonenko led the Soviet Union scoring with 28 points. Dan Meagher scored 18 for the Canadians.

The Soviets, who won all three of their first round games, advanced to the quarter-finals alongside Argentina who beat Egypt 82-65 Friday.

Greece easily defeated the already eliminated South Koreans 119-76 to qualify. Their only defeat in the preliminary round was against defending champions the United States in extra time on the first day.

The Americans resisted a spirited attack by Spain in the second half Friday to win 95-85 and advance to the quarter-finals with a 100 per cent record.

Jordi Villacampa scored 33 of

Spain's points. The Americans, led by Kenny Anderson, (19 points), Christian Lastner (17) and Billy Owens (16), never surrendered the lead. Spain received a tremendous effort from Villacampa, the game's high scorer.

Greece — runnersup in this year's European Championships — needed mostly just substitutes to beat South Korea. The South Koreans already had been eliminated by losing badly twice.

"There was no sense in trying to hard with such a difference on the scoreboard. It would have been overkill," Greece's coach Efthimis Kioamourtzoglou said.

South Korean guard Won-Woo Lee salvaged a measure of pride for his team as the game's highest scorer with 27 points. He netted five of the 11 three-pointers he attempted.

Endurance riding gallops into limelight

By Eva Ahlberg
Reuter

STOCKHOLM — It's raining, it's five in the morning and only the hardest of sports fans are about.

Eighty-one horses gather as their riders shiver in the dawn, ahead of them 160 kilometres and up to 17 hours in the saddle.

Endurance riding, a test which pushes rider and horse to the limit, has long been the poor relation of the equestrian disciplines.

But its inclusion for the first time in the recent World Equestrian Games in Stockholm has brought this particular brand of horse skills to a wider public than ever before.

Endurance riders walk, trot or canter their horses over hilly trails. When the going gets tough they dismount and walk or run with

their charges.

Each horse in Stockholm was carrying 75 kilograms, just a kilo less than Cheltenham Gold Cup winners such as Arkle and Desert Orchid carried on the steeplechase track for just seven or so minutes.

Vets perform regular checks to make sure the horses are fit enough to continue.

In Stockholm only 35 of the 81 completed the course, victory going to defending champion Becky Hart of the United States on Grand Sultan.

The duo came home after the statutory rest stops in 10½ hours. The last pair returned in darkness seven hours later.

The American success was a tribute to the courage of horse and rider.

Hart, a former dressage competitor, weighs only 51 kg so

Grand Sultan humped 24 kg of lead in his saddle — much harder than carrying the same amount in evenly-distributed bodyweight.

After winning the world title in 1988, Hart was told she had back problem and might never ride in competition again.

But instead of resting, as advised, she exercised by stretching, swimming and lifting weights.

She described the event as a fight for the horse and rider against the trail more than a competition between riders. "You develop an incredible rapport with your horse," she said.

Critics, noting that many horses have retired or are eliminated because their pulse rate is too high, claim the event abuses animals.

But Gordan Dahlin, a Swedish vet at the games, said the high drop-out rate was acceptable.

Kenyan understudies steal the show at Brussels Grand Prix

BRUSSELS (R) — Kenya's understudies stole the show from their more famous compatriots on a night of upsets at the Brussels Grand Prix athletics meeting on Friday.

William Mutwol defeated Julius Kariuki in the men's 3,000 metres steeplechase, Yobes Ondieki eclipsed John Ngugi in the 5,000 and William Tanui dominated the 800 against a field containing five 1988 Olympic finalists.

Kariuki came to the Heysel Stadium planning a world record after a series of fine performances this season.

But he was startled at the bell to see Mutwol grab the lead and although Kariuki sprinted back in front with 250 to go he was clearly tiring.

At the final bend he glanced back twice to see Mutwol gathering his strength for a final assault and the Olympic gold medalist had no answer as Mutwol strode past to win in eight minutes 12.75 seconds, the fastest time in the world this year.

"I wasn't surprised William beat me," Kariuki said. "We train all the time together. But I thought I would do a little bit better."

Ondieki ran by himself for the

last kilometre of the 5,000 metres with Olympic champion Ngugi trying in vain to bridge a wide-margin gap.

He finished in 13 minutes 05.60 seconds, second fastest in the world this year, and had enough energy left to run a sprightly victory lap. Ngugi was a distant second in 13:11.14.

Ondieki attributed his fine performance to his split with British coach John MacDonal in July after six unhappy months together.

The Kenyan said MacDonald's stringent training methods had not suited him adding: "I feel like I'm at the start of something new. I'm old enough to know what I have to do."

Tanui, a 26-year-old soldier, had been originally scheduled to take the pacemaker's role in the 5,000.

He persuaded the organisers to include him in the 800 metres and responded by winning with a victory margin of 10 metres in 1:43.39 seconds, the second fastest time in the world this year.

Algerian Reda Abdenouze was second in 1:45.09 and another Kenyan, Nixon Kiprotich, finished third in 1:45.21.

By contrast, Kenyan Olympic

champion Paul Ereng was never in the race and faded to 11th and last place.

Wilfred Korocho capped a wonderful evening for the Kenyans by winning the 1,500 metres in a sprint finish from Algerian Nourredine Morcelli. Korocho's time of 3:32.90 was the second fastest in the world this year behind Morcelli's 3:32.60.

Moroccan Khalid Skah's ambitious attempt to break the world 10,000 metres record in his first attempt at the distance faded through a combination of ill-planned pacemaking and his own inexperience.

The world cross country champion was on his own for more than half the race and, although he finished strongly in 27:29.27, he was more than 21 seconds outside Mexican Arturo Barrios's world mark.

American Leroy Burrell, the fastest man in the world this year, won the men's 100 metres by a clear metre from compatriot Calvin Smith despite an indifferent start. Burrell clocked 10 seconds flat and Smith, a former world record holder, recorded 10.18.

"The start could have been better but I was satisfied with the rest of the race," Burrell said.

American football prepares to take on the world

LONDON (R) — New York playing London and Barcelona taking on Mexico City for a place in a World Championship final has never been more than a sports fan's fantasy.

But the dream of an inter-continental league between teams from the world's most glamorous cities is set to become reality next year when the World League of American Football is launched in Europe and North America.

The instigators of the World League are counting on the glamour, novelty and growing worldwide interest in gridiron to make a financial success of what they hail as the first professional league in sports history to operate on two continents on a week-to-week basis.

A concept created by the owners of the National Football League (NFL) teams and U.S. television network executives, the American Football League kicks off in March in four European cities — London, Barcelona, Frankfurt and probably Milan — and eight in North America.

Its critics view it as a second-rate version of the NFL, or at best a talent pool for their teams, where the players who failed to make the grade can pick up vital experience.

The World League is adamant it is not. "We will represent American football at its highest level. The competition will be intense and will develop its own

style of play and style of player," Billy Hicks, the European coordinator, said.

"We plan to sell the American spectacle — the cheerleaders, the pre-game show, the hot dogs. When you walk into the stadium, you will experience an event."

It is also a gamble taking the sport to Europe on a full-time basis on the evidence of support for a handful of annual showcase games and a television audience — but one the NFL believes is going to pay dividends.

Will British fans want to support a team of unknown players when they have been treated on television to the great stars, like quarter-backs Joe Montana and Jim McMahon?

And what kind of support can the Italian team expect when it is probably going to be based in Milan, the home of two great soccer sides in a country of fanatical soccer lovers in the middle of their season?

"We talked to a lot of opinion leaders in advertising and marketing before making a decision over a year ago," Hicks, a former business manager for the Dallas Cowboys, said at the World League's London headquarters.

"There was an overwhelming response that there was demand for top-level football."

Since the first American Bowl game at Wembley in 1986 Hicks says British fans have become

more sophisticated and knowledgeable about the game.

The same applies in Italy and Spain where there are American football leagues and coverage of NFL games on cable and satellite television.

This weekend sees the first pre-season game in Germany, between the Los Angeles Rams and the Kansas City Chiefs in West Berlin's Olympic Stadium.

Hicks said support for the game was evident from the 160 amateur teams in Britain and the 50,000 players competing in 15 European countries.

More than 860 million television viewers in 59 countries watched the last Super Bowl — one in every six people on earth.

"It's unrealistic to ask for 70,000 people at every game at Wembley, but we would like 50,000. We are going to have to do a lot of creative things to get people to games in Europe," Hicks said.

"But there's a lot going on at an American football game and if we get someone there they will get hooked — we will make sure they are hooked, by making it sexy and interesting."

One of the more radical changes is the use of radios in the players' helmets to allow coaches to issue quarterback calls with instructions and cut out time-consuming huddles during a game.

"Technological innovations

American sets 400m record at world junior meet

PLOVDIV, Bulgaria (AP) — Chris Nelloms, a recent high school graduate from the United States, raced to a record 45.43 in winning the 400 metres at the World Junior Track and Field Championships.

Nelloms broke the meet mark of 45.64 set by Australian Mike Murphy in 1986.

The 18-year-old Nelloms ran away from the field. Second, almost eight metres behind was Rico Lieder of East Germany at 46.28.

Nelloms is also an excellent 110 hurdler, doing 13.30 and leading the U.S. in that event.

Americans took the first two slots in the long jump. James Stallworth won with a performance of 8.12 but didn't match his qualifying mark of 8.20 Thursday, which established a new championship record.

Teammate Dion Bentley, a freshman at the University of Florida, leaped 8.05 for second.

In the women's 400, Nigerian women ran one-two as Fatima Yusuf established a meet record of 50.62, just missing her African record of 50.59. Charity Opara was second in 51.28.

Li Liu of China gained her country's second gold medal of the meet with a 2:02.95 victory in the women's 800.

In the men's 800, Desta Asgedom of Ethiopia and defending champion Jonah Birir of Kenya waged a tight duel before Asgedom prevailed in a meet record of 1:46.35. Birir ran 1:46.61. David Sharpe of Britain had the previous mark of 1:48.32 and Birir ran 1:50.03 in winning two years ago.

Another defending champion was beaten in the 10-kilometre walk. Alberto Cruz, of Mexico was second to Ilya Markov of the Soviet Union although both went under the meet mark. Markov won in 39:55.52. Cruz was less than five metres behind in 39:56.49.

Ederberg gets no. 1 ranking with victory over Chang

MASON, Ohio (AP) — Stefan Ederberg won a tennis match over Michael Chang Friday and with it the no. 1 ranking in the world.

Ederberg defeated Chang 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 to move to the semifinals of the ATP championship, and the victory also gave Ederberg the points needed to pass Ivan Lendl for the top spot in the ATP computer ranking.

"Not everyone is going to be no. 1 in the rankings," the 24-year-old Swede said. "You need to play good tennis. I've done that this year. (Being no. 1) is something that I've wanted to do. The last couple of years I thought I had a chance. Now I've done it."

Ederberg, the regional Wimbledon champion, passed the idle Lendl to become the eighth no. 1 since the computer ratings began in 1973. Lendl has been no. 1 for most of the last seven years, except for a brief period when another Swede, Mats Wilander, was on top.

Ederberg said that he was aware that he could take over the top spot this week. He also said that he was aware of what came with it.

"Life is still going to go on. I will try to stay up there as long as I can," he said. "My main goal now is to play well at the (U.S.) Open. I still have to work very hard. If I start thinking, 'I'm no. 1. I can take it easy,' that is not the case."

Ederberg said he would celebrate his ascension by taking a four-day vacation next week. His only commitment prior to the open, Aug. 27-Sept. 9 at Flushing Meadows, New York, is an exhibition the week before the final Grand Slam event.

His quarterfinal victory over the seventh-seeded Chang didn't come easy. Chang fought to hold serve to start the third set, then built a 3-1 lead before Ederberg won the next four games to take command.

"I really think he's a lot stronger mentally now that he used to be," Chang said of Ederberg. "People used to say Ederberg didn't have any fight in him. Now he's been up there for quite some time and he's starting to get that determination. Even if you have him down, he won't fold. He'll fight and fight until the last point is played."

Ederberg advanced to meet Andres Gomez, the third seed ranked fifth in the world. Gomez handled Jim Courier 6-1, 6-4 in another quarterfinal.

Defending champion Brad Gilbert held off Jakob Hasek 2-6, 6-1, 7-5 to earn a spot in the semifinals against the winner of the Scott Davis-Richard Fromberg match.

On Thursday night, former world no. 1 John McEnroe, on a comeback bid this year, lost to unseeded underdog Scott Davis.

Swede starts World Cup ski season as winner

MOUNT HUTT, New Zealand (AP) — Fredrik Nyberg of Sweden began the 1990-91 World Cup ski season just as he ended last season — as a winner.

Nyberg, 21, improved from third after the first of the two runs to win the opening giant slalom race of the season. He won the final race in the discipline last season in Switzerland.

Nyberg, third by .25 seconds after the opening run behind Austria's Rudolf Nierlich and Norway's Lasse Kjus, completed two runs in two minutes, 31.79 seconds.

Kjus was second in 2:31.89, with Franck Piccard of France a distant third in 2:32.82.

Whitaker seeks to unify boxing lightweight title

STATELINE, NEVADA (R) — American Pernell Whitaker will try to unify his world championship crown with the title from all three boxing sanctioning organizations when he faces Puerto Rico's Juan Nazzario.

At stake in the 12-round bout are Whitaker's World Boxing Council (WBC) and International Boxing Federation (IBF) lightweight championships and Nazzario's World Boxing Association (WBA) lightweight title.

Also on the card is former WBC super featherweight and lightweight champion Hector Camacho against unranked Tony Baltazar and ex-IBF junior welterweight champ Meldrick Taylor against Primo Ramos.

In his sixth title bout in the last 18 months, Whitaker is considered among the top three all-around fighters in the world and, perhaps, the quickest in the sport.

Odds makers have Whitaker as a 14-1 favourite over the unheralded Nazzario. None of which fazes Nazzario, a

slow but relentless brawler.

"I'm going to put more pressure on him than he's ever seen before," Nazzario said. "He's never met anyone as aggressive as I am."

Nazzario trained two months in the mountains of Venezuela to acclimate himself to the 8,500-foot altitude of the fight site. He arrived here from Venezuela 17 days ago.

Whitaker said he was unimpressed by Nazzario's training altitude approach.

"I don't care what he's going to do," said Whitaker, a gold medalist for the United States in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. "I'm just going to fight my fight."

Whitaker said after the Nazzario bout he would fight once more in the lightweight division, then move up to the more popular and lucrative junior welterweight division.

Whitaker, with a record of 22-1 with 12 knockouts, took the IBF lightweight championship in February 1989, dethroning Greg Haugen.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY AUGUST 12, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A whole new plan in conjunction with a very influential person can bring you the outlets that can best serve your present intentions. Let others see that you are moving ahead.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Be out in the world early at worldly activities and make decisions for best way to handle concerns, rest of the day carry through with these good plans.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) New sources of information can be readily obtained by you by searching for it at various places early, then you can get it arranged to benefit you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Forget your various angles of a mental nature and get into the nitty gritty of whatever problems face you and you see ways to achieve a great deal.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Forget emotional matters and approach one who is well versed in reducing ideas to a success and get suggestions for aiding you with your issues.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A day to pay strict attention to whatever your routine activities and to show early you can produce at even pace and keep it up till evening.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You have considerable ability now to make your talent work so

that it will pay off for you in whatever creative expression you are tending it.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Take a good look around your home and see just what you can do to have a greater amount of operative skill and efficiency in that realm of your life.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have some very down to earth ideas and suggestions you now can extend to those with whom you work side-by-side and have usual contact.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You now have an excellent day to analyse your assets and liabilities so in the future your resources will be more available to you when needed.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your ability at organization is now touched off very much to your advantage and you will be wise to plan when to gain aims, put efforts into so doing.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Forget all that wishful thinking and get into the very down to earth behind the scenes and intimate tasks that await your attention.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your aptness in doing details well can stand you in good stead now in pursuing of aims of a personal nature that are important to you.

THE BETTER HALF.

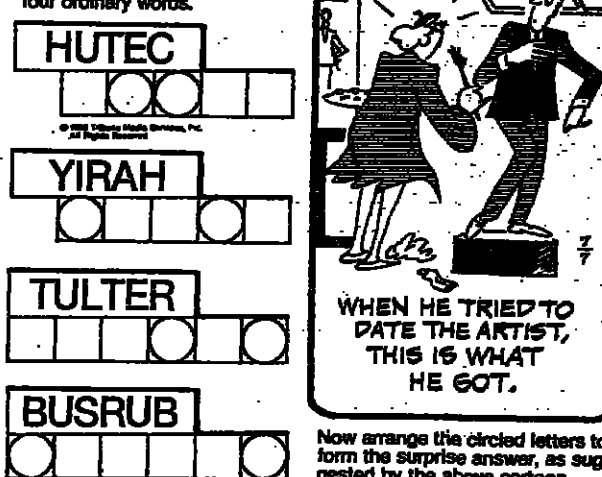
By Harris



"My horoscope says I'm ready for a wild romance. If I get crazy blame the stars, not me."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



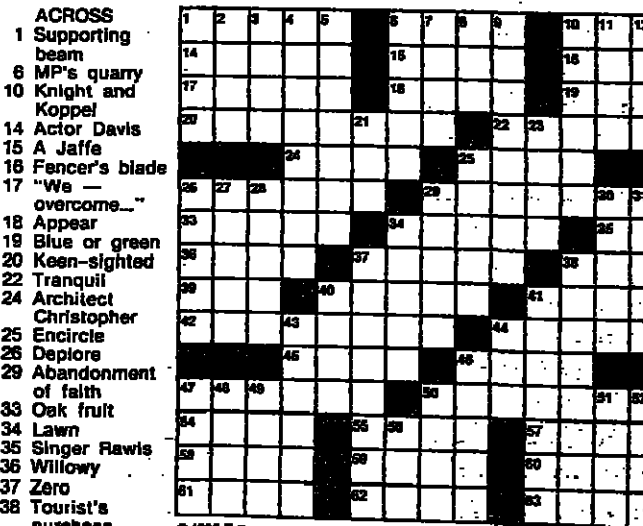
Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: MUSTY BUXOM NOBODY TRAGIC

Answer: What a screwdriver did for the carpenter — A GOOD TURN

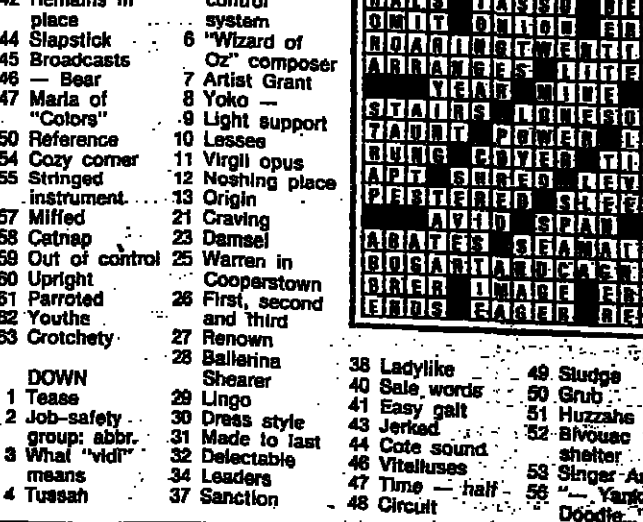
THE Daily Crossword

by I. Miller



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



Crise du Golfe

Semaine de fièvre

La tension n'a cessé de monter, cette semaine, en Jordanie et sur la scène internationale, à propos de la crise du Golfe. Bonnes et mauvaises nouvelles, affirmations et démentis ont mis à rude épreuve les nerfs de la population, semant la confusion et l'inquiétude.

Mardi, c'était l'annonce par l'Irak de la réouverture de ses frontières. Deux avions arrivaient aussitôt à Amman avec 204 occupants à bord: les passagers du vol Bangkok-Paris d'Irak Air Lines, dont l'escorte de trois heures à Bagdad s'était transformée en un transit prolongé de six jours, sans le moindre visa permettant de circuler librement. Nerveusement déçus, les passagers (dont sept Français, dix Belges et un Américain) racontaient en arrivant qu'ils avaient été bien traités, logés dans des hôtels confortables, mais qu'ils avaient vécu dans la crainte de devenir un moyen de pression, entre les mains de Saddam Hussein, sur les gouvernements occidentaux.

Les jours suivants, quelques avions atterrissaient à Amman et quelques voitures privées ou autocars franchissaient sans problème la frontière terrestre irakienne, tandis que d'autres occidentaux étaient stoppés par la sécurité irakienne à l'intérieur du pays et reconduits à Bagdad. Finalement Saddam Hussein annonçait jeudi soir qu'il ferait à nouveau ses frontières aux Occidentaux et aux Koweïtiens, après avoir laissé passer environ 400 touristes ou hommes d'affaires (dont dix Français). Et pourtant, hier soir encore, un groupe de diplomates américains, soviétiques, allemands et autres arrivait à Amman. Les derniers? 15.000 Occidentaux se trouvent encore au Koweït ou en Irak.

Judi également, les premiers groupes américains s'étaient déployés en Arabie Saoudite pour la défendre contre une éventuelle attaque irakienne, faisant monter la tension d'un cran.

Désormais, la possibilité d'une guerre est dans tous les esprits et suscite des comportements nouveaux, défensifs ou offensifs.



Manifestation en faveur de Saddam Hussein à Amman. (Photo: Youssef el-Alami)

Malgré l'assurance donnée par le ministre des approvisionnements jordaniens que le pays dispose de réserves alimentaires pour une autonomie de six mois, de nombreux magasins d'Amman se sont vidés en quelques jours de leur stock de riz et de sucre et attendent maintenant d'être réapprovisionnés.

Comportement plus offensif, des milliers de jeunes gens sont allés s'inscrire cette semaine à l'ambassade d'Irak pour proposer symboliquement la chose relève pas d'un choix individuel: leur renfort aux troupes irakiennes en cas de guerre contre les Etats-Unis.

Plusieurs manifestations ont eu lieu, dans plusieurs villes du pays, où les drapeaux américains, britannique et israélien ont été brûlés en public.

Signe important, le roi Hussein

a déclaré l'état d'alerte pour l'armée, annulant les permissions des soldats et les congés des officiers, pour que chacun reste à proximité de son poste. Médiateur très prudent jusqu'ici, refusant de prendre parti pour l'Irak ou pour le Koweït, sa majesté a évoqué jeudi, dans une conférence de presse, son intention d'étudier d'application de mesures de boycott contre l'Irak.

L'affaire du Koweït a mis tous les chefs d'Etat arabes mal à l'aise. Un malaise particulièrement sensible lors du sommet de la Ligue arabe, reporté deux fois avant d'être finalement organisé vendredi au Caire. Douze des vingt-et-un pays de la Ligue y ont adopté une résolution hostile au président irakien Saddam Hussein, proposant d'envoyer leurs troupes aux côtés des Américains en Arabie Saoudite: les pays

membres du Conseil de coopération du Golfe, qui se sentent menacés au premier chef et solidaires du Koweït, rejoints par l'Egypte, la Syrie, la Somalie, Djibouti et le Liban. A l'opposé, trois autres nations ont voté contre cette résolution: l'Irak, naturellement, rejoint par la Libye, et la Palestine. Les autres pays (Soudan, Mauritanie, Algérie, Yémen et Jordanie) se sont abstenus ou ont émis des réserves.

Faute d'unanimité les troupes qui seront envoyées par les pays arabes ne seront pas la responsabilité des Etats et non sous celle de la Ligue. Déjà les Egyptiens s'appellent à envoyer les leurs. Furieux de son isolement, Saddam Hussein a lancé un appel à la guerre sainte contre les Etats-Unis «et leurs intérêts où qu'ils soient».

Cette division entre les pays arabes joue contre le règlement du conflit prôné par le roi Hussein depuis le début, alors que les Etats-Unis et l'OTAN vont, eux, de plus en plus loin et se font de plus en plus unanimes. Après avoir adopté, la semaine dernière, l'unanimité moins l'abstention du Yémen, la condamnation de l'Irak et l'exigence de son retrait, le Conseil de Sécurité de l'ONU a adopté lundi, à l'unanimité moins les abstentions du Yémen et de Cuba, le boycott commercial, financier et militaire de l'Irak. Jeudi enfin, il adoptait, à l'unanimité sans restriction, une résolution déclarant nulle et non avenue l'invasion du Koweït par l'Irak. Quant à l'OTAN, elle déclarait avant-hier son intention d'apporter sa contribution aux forces militaires internationales au Moyen-Orient destinées à empêcher l'Irak d'attaquer un nouveau pays. Déjà, la France envoie son porte-avions «Clémenceau» dans les eaux du Golfe...

Les événements ne cessent de se précipiter et ne vont pas, pour l'instant, dans le sens d'un apaisement du conflit.

CLIN

D'OEIL

Amour fou

Ne vous affolez pas! Ce n'est pas encore la fin du monde. L'Amérique y veille et l'impérialisme n'est pas mort. Au contraire, il est plus que jamais omniprésent.

Le message, tout le monde l'a compris. Dans la région comme ailleurs.

Tout d'abord, pas question qu'une force régionale arabe émerge. Entre l'Irak et Israël, le choix est déjà fait.

L'Amérique et ses alliés soutiendront toujours un Etat hébreu. Un «Etat» en quête de frontières sûres et d'immigrants disposés à nier au peuple arabe palestinien ses droits sur son sol national, sa terre natale.

Pas question que ces règles du jeu soient remises en cause par quiconque, qu'il s'appelle Saddam Hussein ou l'Emir Jaber, qu'il ait annexé du Koweït, ou non.

Bref, entre les Etats-Unis et le Golfe du pétrole une histoire d'amour n'en finit pas de finir. Maitresses s'abstenir! Reste à dire que la confrontation militaire dépend désormais d'un si. Avec un si, on peut mettre le monde en bouteille et le Golfe sur un volcan.

Ayman Masannat

EN BREF

Otage. Emmanuel Christen, l'un des deux otages suisses détenus au Liban depuis plus de dix mois a été libéré mercredi soir. Collaborateur de Comité International de la Croix Rouge, il avait été enlevé le 6 octobre dernier à Saïda, au sud du Liban, avec son collègue Elio Eriquez, qui, lui, n'a toujours pas été libéré. Les deux hommes sont protestataires et soignent les handicapés de guerre et les amputés. Leur libération avait été annoncée, mardi, par une organisation jusque là inconnue: les «Fractions révolutionnaires palestiniennes».

Baccalauréat. Les épreuves du baccalauréat libanais, qui n'avait pas été organisé depuis 1986 en raison de la guerre, ont commencé lundi dans l'ensemble du Liban, à l'exception du «pays chrétien». 18.172 candidats sont inscrits à cette session et sont répartis en trois sections: mathématiques, sciences expérimentales et philosophie. Une autre session est prévue en décembre pour les lycéens du «pays chrétien».

Soutien. Le colonel libyen, Mouammar Kadhafi, a confirmé pour la première fois avoir donné de l'argent au syndicat des mineurs britanniques pendant la grève de 1984-85, dans une interview au Sunday Times. Le président du syndicat, accusé d'avoir détourné à des fins personnelles une partie des fonds de solidarité destinés aux mineurs, a toujours catégoriquement démenti avoir reçu de l'argent libyen. Un membre de la commission interne du syndicat chargée de l'enquête pourrait bientôt se rendre à Tripoli pour interroger les dirigeants libyens.

Bénazir. Le premier ministre pakistanais, Mme Bénazir Bhutto, a été destitué de ses fonctions lundi par le président du pays qui a simultanément décrété l'état d'urgence. Le premier ministre par intérim, Mustafa Jatoi, accuse le gouvernement de Mme Bhutto d'avoir «ruiné l'économie», d'être responsable d'actes de corruption «inimaginables» et de «l'effondrement» de la loi et de l'ordre dans la province du Sind (sud du pays), secouée ces derniers mois par de violents conflits ethniques.

ANC. Le Congrès National Africain (ANC) a décidé lundi de suspendre «avec effet immédiat» la lutte armée qu'il avait entamée il y a près de 25 ans contre le régime blanc de l'apartheid, une mesure que son leader, Nelson Mandela, a qualifiée de «concession très significative» au gouvernement du président Frederik de Klerk. Cette décision de portée historique a été annoncée à l'issue de la deuxième séance de pourparlers entre le mouvement nationaliste et le gouvernement sud-africain, qui a duré plus de quinze heures.

Espace. Les cosmonautes soviétiques Anatoly Soloviev et Alexandre Balandine ont regagné la Terre jeudi, après six mois moins deux jours passés en apesanteur à bord de la station Mir, à quelque 340 km d'altitude au-dessus de nos têtes. Ils reviennent avec une nombreuse documentation, les films de leurs deux sorties dans l'espace, de nombreux échantillons biologiques exposés à la microgravité et aux rayons cosmiques, des vaccins, et des cristaux de semi-conducteurs réalisés dans le module scientifique Kristall.

Collision. Un pétrolier chypriote et un pétrolier norvégien sont entrés en collision dans la nuit de lundi à mardi au large des côtes de Gibraltar, laissant échapper 8.000 tonnes de brut. Selon les autorités espagnoles la nappe de pétrole, qui aurait 4,5 km de long sur 1 km de large, est en train de se dissoudre et se dirige vers la Méditerranée. Elles ajoutent que ni les côtes espagnoles ni les côtes marocaines n'ont été touchées et que la marée noire devrait être évitée.

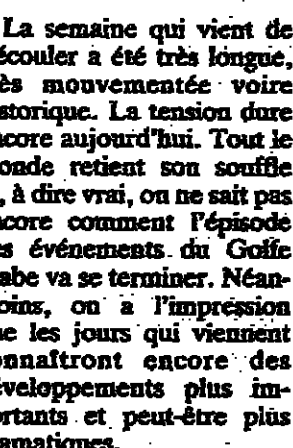
Funérailles. Les funérailles nationales de l'ancien chancelier autrichien Bruno Kreisky, décédé la semaine dernière à l'âge de 79 ans, ont eu lieu mardi à Vienne, en présence, notamment du chef de l'O.L.P., Yasser Arafat, qu'il avait été le premier chef de gouvernement occidental à recevoir en visite officielle.

Soustelle. L'ancien ministre du général de Gaulle, Jacques Soustelle, ethnologue de réputation mondiale et spécialiste des civilisations précolombiennes, est décédé dans la nuit de lundi à mardi à Neuilly-sur-Seine, en banlieue parisienne. Il avait été l'un des fondateurs du mouvement gaulliste en 1947. Devenu gouverneur d'Algérie en 1955, il se fit le défenseur de l'Algérie française et dut s'exiler après qu'un mandat d'arrêt ait été lancé contre lui pour atteinte à la sûreté de l'Etat en 1962. Il bénéficia d'un non lieu à son retour en France en 1968. Depuis le 2 juin 1983, il était membre de l'Académie Française. Jacques Soustelle avait 78 ans.

Première. L'équipe médicale du professeur Alain Carpentier de l'hôpital Broussais de Paris a réussi une triple transplantation cœur, poulmon, foie sur une adolescente de 16 ans atteinte de mucoviscidose. Opérée le 22 juin, l'opérée est sortie mercredi en excellente santé. C'est la première fois qu'une telle opération est réalisée en France et la première fois au monde qu'elle est faite sur un enfant et dans un cas de mucoviscidose.

LA SEMAINE... de Sulaiman Sweiss

Troupes américaines: Go home!



La semaine qui vient de s'écouler a été très longue, très mouvementée voire historique. La tension dure encore aujourd'hui. Tout le monde retient son souffle et, à dire vrai, on ne sait pas encore comment l'épisode des événements du Golfe arabe va se terminer. Néanmoins, on a l'impression que les jours qui viennent connaîtront encore des développements plus importants et peut-être plus dramatiques.

Les Etats-Unis ont donc décidé de pousser la tension jusqu'au bout. Nous avons l'impression de revivre l'atmosphère qui régnait au moment de l'agression trinitaire (Français, Anglais, Israéliens) contre l'Egypte de Nasser en 1956. Le président Bush déploie ses forces en Arabie Saoudite à une vitesse exemplaire. Des bâtiments et des moyens de guerre sophistiqués s'agglutinent dans les eaux du Golfe arabe. Une campagne diplomatique-politique sans précédent est orchestrée contre l'Irak à travers le monde par la puissance américaine et ses alliés du monde capitaliste. Pendant longtemps, cette domination et sont agent sioniste ont bien cru que les régimes fantoches étaient le propre des peuples arabes et que ceux-ci étaient complètement soumis aux chaînes impérialistes.

Le contentieux irako-koweïtien est une affaire arabe interne, qui pourrait être réglée dans le cadre des organismes régionaux arabes. Objectivement, il n'y a aucune raison valable aux mesures prises par les Etats-Unis ces derniers jours contre l'Irak.

La logique des impérialistes est très célèbre: Dès que vous touchez à mes sous, à mes «intérêts vitaux», à l'exploitation que nous vous imposons, alors vous méritez la mort. Quant à la morale, aux principes, ils ne sont que des alibis qu'on peut façonner comme l'on veut.

Que M. Bush ne nous parle pas du «droit» comme il l'a fait à la télévision il y a quelques jours pour obtenir l'appui du peuple américain à ces préparations militaires. Et surtout qu'il ne nous assène pas des discours sur la souveraineté et la justice!

Il y a quelques mois, les troupes de M. Bush ont envahi le Panama, ont déchu son président et l'ont amené en coupable aux Etats-Unis.

En 1981, c'était l'invasion de Grenade par les mêmes troupes américaines; en 1966, l'occupation de Saint-Domingue...

Que dire de l'invasion des îles Malouines par la Grande-Bretagne de Mme Thatcher? Oh! étaient les Etats-Unis lorsque Israël a annexé Jérusalem-est, en 1967 et les plateaux du Golan en 1981? Que dire des agressions israéliennes contre le réacteur nucléaire irakien en 1981, l'invasion et les massacres commis par les troupes israéliennes au Liban en 1982 et le raid meurtrier sur la Libye et la Tunisie? Que dire des crimes des troupes américaines au Vietnam, du raid contre l'Iran sous l'administration Carter ou encore des tentatives d'envahir Cuba?

Décidément, les Etats-Unis et leurs alliés sont les derniers à avoir le droit de donner des leçons aux arabes et aux autres peuples sur le «droit international» et la souveraineté, même si le régime de Saddam Hussein a tous les défauts du monde. Celui-ci a le mérite d'avoir recours à des solutions inattendues et inhabituelles pour les Etats impérialistes et leurs agents dans le monde arabe. Ces Etats doivent se rendre compte que le coup monté par le président irakien correspond aux aspirations les plus profondes et les plus chères au cœur des peuples arabes. Humiliés et affaiblis pendant longtemps, ceux-ci recouvrent la confiance en eux-mêmes. Les arabes ont trop conscience que leur pétrole sert beaucoup plus aux économies capitalistes et à Israël qu'à eux-mêmes. C'est pourquoi ils ont l'impression de ne rien avoir à craindre, puisqu'ils n'ont que leurs chaînes à perdre. La position irakienne est soutenue largement par les peuples arabes. Ceux-ci ne se sentent pas du tout l'âme de moutons et se sentent prêts à riposter au défi américain et à défendre leur dignité.

Nous souhaitons de tout cœur qu'une nouvelle guerre n'éclate pas et que la surenchère de tension s'arrête. Les peuples de cette région n'ont pas encore vu et tout particulièrement le peuple irakien n'ont pas besoin de retourner sur les champs de bataille après huit ans de guerre contre l'Iran.

La position de la France

Mitterrand envoie du renfort

Le président de la République française, François Mitterrand, s'est exprimé jeudi sur le conflit du Golfe et a annoncé l'envoi du porte-avions «Clémenceau». Voici les principaux extraits de sa déclaration:

«La France entretient depuis longtemps d'amicales relations avec l'Irak. On sait qu'elle l'a aidé lors de la guerre contre l'Iran. Cela l'autorise d'autant plus à dire clairement qu'elle n'accepte ni l'agression contre le Koweït, ni l'annexion qui a suivi. Aussi, a-t-elle décidé d'associer ses efforts à ceux des pays qui s'engagent pour le rétablissement du droit international violé par l'Irak. «C'est pourquoi elle a voté

les résolutions du Conseil de Sécurité des Nations Unies et celles de la Communauté européenne et pris l'initiative de certaines d'entre elles.

«C'est pourquoi elle exerce sa part de l'embargo et des sanctions économiques également mises en œuvre.

«C'est pourquoi enfin sa marine est présente dans la zone du Golfe, toujours en application de la décision des Nations Unies.

Soutien à Saddam Hussein de la population jordannienne.

Un pour tous, tous pour un

La crise dans le Golfe arabe et la concentration des troupes américaines en Arabie Saoudite ont déclenché un tollé populaire un peu partout cette semaine en Jordanie contre l'«ennemi» américain. Une unanimité populaire sans précédent est apparue pour soutenir l'Irak, «victime, dans l'esprit de presque tous, d'une campagne hystérique menée par les Etats-Unis».

La solidarité avec les peuples irakien et koweïtien a pris de l'ampleur parmi les Jordaniens. En quelques jours, 15.000 volontaires se sont rendus à l'ambassade d'Irak à Amman et au comité populaire de solidarité avec l'Irak pour demander à soutenir le combat de Saddam Hussein.

Les réactions sont innombrables et elles ont pris de multiples formes: communiqués, meetings, télégrammes, manifestations, collectes etc... Presque tous les organismes populaires ont réagi: partis politiques, députés, syndicats, organisations de jeunes, municipalités, religieux, etc...

Cette campagne de solidarité avec l'Irak a été observée partout dans le pays. Un très grand nombre d'associations et de forces populaires ont exprimé leur soutien à la politique et à l'action du roi Hussein de Jordanie pour contenir la crise et assurer sa solution dans le cadre arabe. Plusieurs partis ont mis en garde contre l'éventualité d'une agression israélienne en Jordanie, soupçonnant l'Etat hébreu de vouloir profiter de la situation de crise dans le Golfe pour sanctionner la Jordanie après son soutien à l'Irak.

Bref, une ambiance de mobilisation générale se développe dans le pays. Elle rappelle celle qui régnait en 1956, en 1967 et en 1982. Le peuple jordannien a enfin trouvé l'occasion d'exprimer ses sentiments et sa volonté de s'opposer à toute agression impérialiste contre la nation arabe. Aux yeux des Jordaniens un

régime arabe a enfin osé récupérer une partie des richesses arabes qui étaient sous la domination des majors américains, les régimes fantoches n'étant là que pour servir de couverture à cette domination.

Les députés du mouvement des Frères musulmans ont dénoncé «l'attaque américano-sioniste contre la nation arabe et musulmane» et ils ont réclamé du gouvernement qu'il «prenne toutes les mesures nécessaires pour une mobilisation générale». Ils ont exigé des régimes arabes qu'ils retirent leurs fonds des banques étrangères.

Le rassemblement démocratique jordannien (nouvelle coalition des partis de gauche) a condamné le déploiement des troupes américaines en Arabie Saoudite et l'a considéré comme un danger pour la nation arabe tout entière et non uniquement pour l'Irak. Le communiqué du Rassemblement a appelé à la mobilisation générale. «C'est une occasion historique de résister concrètement à la politique impérialiste dans la région».

Plusieurs formations et hommes politiques ont dénoncé les positions de certains régimes

arabes tels que l'Arabie Saoudite et l'Egypte qui collaborent avec les Etats-Unis.

L'avocat Al-Rachdan, secrétaire du comité de soutien à la lutte du peuple irakien a annoncé jeudi que le nombre des volontaires avait atteint 15.000 Jordaniens, parmi lesquels des médecins, des ingénieurs, des avocats, des étudiants, des journalistes.

L'association des écrivains, les forces populaires à Mafraq, ainsi que plusieurs députés et hommes politiques ont envoyé des télégrammes au président syrien Hafez el-Assad, lui demandant de soutenir l'Irak face à l'agression des Etats-Unis.

Plusieurs associations socio-professionnelles et syndicales ont appelé le peuple à intensifier la campagne pour boycotter les produits et les marchandises américains.

Des meetings populaires ont eu lieu à Karak, Al-Salt, Tafleeh, Ma'an, Irbid, Zarqa, Wadi Musa, Fuhels, Ramtha, etc... A la fin de chaque meeting, on presquait, des télégrammes de protestation ont été envoyés au président Bush et des télégrammes de soutien au président Saddam Hussein.

Plusieurs milliers de personnes ont manifesté à Amman, portant des drapeaux jordaniens et irakiens. Ils ont dénoncé la collaboration entre les «impérialistes» américains, israéliens et leurs agents arabes... L'affaire du Koweït a bel et bien réveillé l'ensemble des Jordaniens.

Sulaiman Sweiss

Vous écrivez?

Si la plume vous démange, que vous écrivez en français... «Le Jourdain» vous ouvre ses deux pages hebdomadaires. Vos idées de sujets, locaux et régionaux, comme vos suggestions y sont les bienvenues.

Jean-Marc Bordes, French section, Jordan Times. P.O. Box 6718. Tél: 667171.

Coopération française

Tiers monde et ouverture à l'Est

Un sentiment de solidarité mais aussi un intérêt bien compris, ont amené la France à promouvoir une large politique de coopération et d'aide au développement dans les pays du Tiers-Monde. En 1990, elle y consacre 0,54% de son Produit Intérieur Brut. Un pourcentage qu'elle envisage de porter à 0,7% (la moyenne de la contribution des pays industrialisés se situe aux alentours de 0,36%).

Les Français ont pris très tôt conscience du fossé entre pays pauvres et riches: de 78 ans en France, l'espérance de vie ne dépasse pas 40 ans en Guinée ou en Sierra-Léone; le rendement du maïs atteint 12 tonnes à l'hectare dans l'hexagone, mais seulement 800 kg au Sahel.

De l'Afrique aux Caraïbes, en passant par l'Océan Indien, la patrie de Pasteur et de Schoeller (député qui fut à l'origine de l'abolition définitive de l'esclavage en 1848) multiplie ses interventions pour alléger le fardeau qui pèse sur les déshérités. La plus spectaculaire: l'effacement de la dette de 35 pays pauvres annoncée en 1989 par le président Mitterrand. En raison des liens tissés durant la colonisation, la France se sent un devoir particulier à l'égard de l'Afrique: elle figure en tête des donateurs en Afrique sub-saharienne et en deuxième place pour l'ensemble du continent.

Dans le cadre européen, la France préside la Communauté européenne, l'an dernier, lorsque cette dernière a accordé 85 milliards de F aux pays en développement. Elle poursuit d'autre part, son action en faveur des réfugiés, par exemple en s'engageant, lors de la conférence de Genève de 1988 à accueillir 4.400 Vietnamiens.

La France entretient, dans une soixantaine de pays 9.000 coopérateurs, enseignants et techniciens:



Cadres soviétiques à un stage à Paris

spécialistes de l'agriculture et de la forêt tropicale, de l'irrigation, de l'élevage, de la lutte contre les acridiens, etc. Elle prend aussi en charge les 600 personnes de l'Association française des volontaires du progrès qui participent à un important programme de développement européen.

L'enseignement occupe une place de choix dans la coopération culturelle et technique. Il est dispensé par plus de 8.000 maîtres à quelques 162.000 élèves, dans 350 écoles, collèges et lycées français de l'étranger. S'y ajoutent l'important réseau de l'Alliance française et les 160 instituts et centres culturels. Leurs moyens: les radios et télévisions francophones, les agences d'images d'actualité, les échanges artistiques, les expositions...

A côté de l'assistance permanente, l'aide d'urgence entre pour une large part dans l'action humanitaire de la France. En 1989, directement ou par le canal des organisations non gouvernementales (Médecins du monde, Médecins sans frontières, etc.) elle a dispensé son assistance en matériel, en vivres, en médicaments, en équipes de secours.

Cette coopération revêt des formes variées. Campagne antiméningite pour enrayer une épidémie en Ethiopie et au Bénin, aide en ravitaillement et intervention de la Protection civile de Paris lors d'inondations au Burundi et à Djibouti, pont aérien pour rapatrier 100.000 victimes du conflit sénégal-mauritanien, acheminement de matériel de secours lors d'un séisme en Algérie, de tentes au Niger pour faire face à l'afflux de populations touaregs, etc.

Les grandes lignes d'une coopération avec l'Europe de l'est ont été définies aujourd'hui. Sans porter préjudice aux actions déjà menées en direction du Tiers-Monde, Paris a été conduit à mobiliser de nouveaux moyens en direction de ces pays. La France entend jouer un rôle moteur pour y encourager l'économie de marché. C'est ainsi que Jacques Attali, le conseiller spécial du président, vient d'être nommé à la tête de la Banque Européenne pour la Reconstruction et le Développement (BERD).

La France intervient lorsqu'il s'agit de distribuer une aide agro-alimentaire européenne à la Pologne et à la Hongrie. Elle forme des cadres pour l'économie et l'industrie des pays qui ont rejeté le régime communiste. Elle crée des bourses d'études pour les étudiants, installe des entreprises, françaises ou mixtes, notamment en RDA ou en Tchécoslovaquie...

Pierre-Albert Lambert

Enseignement de la musique en Jordanie

Ces écoliers qui aiment les notes

Depuis quelques années la musique est très en vogue en Jordanie. Les adultes mais surtout leurs enfants sont de plus en plus nombreux à s'initier -de plus en plus jeunes- au solfège et à la pratique d'un

instrument. Aujourd'hui, cette formation est dispensée au Conservatoire National, mais elle devrait rentrer dans les écoles en 1991.



De plus en plus de jeunes s'initient à un instrument au Conservatoire National.

Des enfants de trois ans apprenant à jouer sur des instruments de percussion des morceaux de musique simple, une image devenue familière en Jordanie où l'initiation des citoyens à la musique dès leur bas âge a commencé il y a quatre ans avec la fondation, en octobre 1986, du Conservatoire National de Musique.

«L'expérience a démontré que les enfants peuvent être initiés à la musique et parvenir à jouer correctement les morceaux simples qu'on leur apprend, sans qu'ils ne soient pour autant des prodiges», estime le directeur du Conservatoire à Amman, Kifah Fakhoury.

«Jouant sur des instruments de percussion tels que le xylophone, le metallophone ou le carillon, ils commencent ainsi à un âge très précoce leur apprentissage musical et ceci constitue en même temps un moyen de tester leurs aptitudes dans ce domaine et de fixer le choix de leur instrument» ajoute-t-il.

Pour Kifah Fakhoury, depuis quatre ans la musique attire de plus en plus les Jordanais qui sont chaque année plus nombreux à «souhaiter compléter l'éducation de leurs enfants en les initiant à un instrument de musique de leur choix».

Ayant débuté il y a quatre ans avec quarante-cinq enfants, dont l'âge variait de 6 à 9 ans, le Conservatoire compte actuellement deux cents étudiants, âgés de 13 à 18 ans qui apprennent la musique sur des instruments à corde ou à vent tels que le violon, la flûte, la trompette ou la contrebasse ou encore sur des instruments de musique orientale tels que le «oud», le «kanoun» ou le «nays».

Cette évolution de la société

jordanienne en faveur de l'art musical a poussé les autorités à accorder un intérêt particulier à la musique et le ministère de l'Éducation a décidé d'inscrire la musique dans les programmes des écoles.

A partir de 1991, cette matière sera enseignée à raison d'une heure par semaine depuis les classes préparatoires jusqu'au brevet.

Pour Kifah Fakhoury, cela ne diminuera pas pour autant le rôle du Conservatoire qui reste ouvert à tous les amateurs de musique désirant perfectionner leurs talents.

L'étudiant suit au Conservatoire des cours à raison de quatre heures par semaine et obtient à la fin de chaque année une attestation, en attendant de décrocher

son diplôme au terme de dix à douze ans d'études suivant le type d'instrument qu'il a choisi.

Des étudiants qui ont déjà à leur actif quatre années au Conservatoire, ont atteint «le niveau reconnu par les normes internationales de musique et cela de l'avis des experts étrangers qui rendent visite au Conservatoire en cours d'années», ajoute M. Fakhoury.

Afin d'aider les parents à tester les aptitudes musicales de leurs enfants, le Conservatoire organise des «camps de musique», spécialement pour les enfants, destinés à les initier à la musique et à leur permettre de choisir leur instrument préféré.

Plus de cent enfants participent tous les ans à ces sessions d'été de dix jours, à raison de trois heures par jour, au cours desquelles ils

apprennent à jouer sur des instruments simples, s'initient au chant et à la culture rythmique et suivent des cours de solfège.

Toutefois, le piano ne figure pas parmi les instruments de musique enseignés au Conservatoire, en raison, paradoxalement, de sa grande popularité. «Nous avons constaté que tout le monde veut jouer du piano, c'est pourquoi nous avons décidé de le supprimer momentanément», explique M. Fakhoury.

Selon lui, l'objectif étant d'avoir des musiciens jordaniens jouant de tous les instruments, le piano a été supprimé, «quitte à l'insérer plus tard dans les programmes, une fois que les Jordaniens se seront familiarisés avec les autres instruments».

Nabil Rached

Industries de pointe en France

La déferlante verte

Depuis quelques années des résultats remarquables sont atteints dans certains secteurs industriels de technologie avancée et tournés vers l'innovation. Ces industries de pointe placent la France en bonne position dans la compétition internationale. Dernière née des différentes branches de ce secteur: l'industrie verte, qui s'attache à protéger l'environnement.

Pionnière de l'aviation, la France a su y conserver une position dominante. Elle rivalise avec les Etats-Unis et l'URSS dans ce secteur, l'un des plus brillants de l'industrie nationale.

Ses réussites passées (Caravelle, Concorde), se doublent aujourd'hui de succès commerciaux obtenus dans le cadre d'une coopération européenne exemplaire pour la réalisation de programmes civils (Airbus). Les hélicoptères et avions militaires français (Mirage) équipent de nombreuses armées. Dans le domaine de l'espace, la fusée européenne Ariane, conçue à l'initiative de la France, est un succès.

Concentrée autour de Paris et dans le Sud-ouest, cette industrie emploie 120.000 salariés et compte une centaine d'entreprises, quelques unes de grande taille. La plus importante, l'Aérospatiale, nationalisée, fabrique aussi des missiles. Dassault est spécialisée dans les avions de chasse et d'affaires, la SNEC-MA, dans les réacteurs.

L'aéronautique et l'espace, qui dégagent un excédent commercial considérable (30 à 40 milliards de F) afficheront en 1990, comme en 1989, une progression de 11%.

Les industries électroniques rassemblent les fabricants de matériel professionnel (téléphones, télégraphe, radiologie, tubes électroniques, composants, semi-conducteurs) et le matériel grand public (radio-récepteurs, téléviseurs, appareils d'enregistrement et de reproduction son/image).

Ce secteur est appelé à progresser de 3% en 1990. Sa croissance est tirée par la demande de produits nouveaux et le développement de nouvelles techniques de télécommunications, comme le matériel téléphonique (plus 6% en 1990). Pour le bénéfice de firmes comme Alcatel, Sagem, Matra, Thomson.

Cette dernière s'est associée au groupe hollandais Philips pour consacrer 20 milliards de F à la recherche sur la télévision «haute définition», dans le cadre du projet

européen Euréka. Rita, système de télécommunication sophistiqué dont est équipée l'armée américaine, est un enfant des ingénieurs de Thomson. A signaler le spectaculaire succès du Minitel, ce micro-ordinateur domestique, qui possède à présent 63% des foyers français.

Mais un survol des activités industrielles de pointe ne serait pas complet sans un détour par l'industrie verte qui s'attache, par ses technologies et ses productions, à la sauvegarde du milieu naturel. Un secteur d'avenir en plein développement dont le chiffre d'affaires a atteint, en 1988 (dernier chiffre connu) 77 milliards de F - près de 2% du Produit Intérieur Brut.

Dans l'enveloppe de 4 milliards de F destinée à l'automobile, pour la période 1990-1994 (dont un tiers est financé directement par le gouvernement) une bonne part ira à la mise au point d'un moteur «propre». Une autre enveloppe consacrée au transport en général vise à économiser l'énergie, donc à diminuer les rejets nocifs dans l'atmosphère. On a calculé par exemple que l'amélioration de la signalisation des 30.000 feux verts installés aux carrefours, permettrait d'économiser 450.000 tonnes d'équivalent pétrole chaque année et de chauffer 200.000 logements.

Piles sans mercure pour appareils domestiques, appareils électro-ménagers silencieux, recyclage du verre, des plastiques, du carton, des papiers, traitement des liquides toxiques, fabrication de peinture sans solvant ni minéraux sales... Ce sont là quelques-unes des nombreuses réalisations de l'éco-industrie.

De grandes firmes de la chimie et des services, comme Rhône-Poulenc, La Française et la Lyonnaise des eaux, La Française des ferrailles, Dégremont, PPG Industrie France, se taillent la part du lion sur ce nouveau marché du business vert appelé à se développer au rythme de 2,5% par an.

Pierre-Albert Lambert

Raccommodeurs

Les magiciens du fil à coudre

Transmis de père en fils, le métier de raccommodeur existe depuis plus de mille ans. A Amman, il en reste six ou sept, implantés dans la rue Al-Khaim, au centre ville. Leur travail consiste à remettre à neuf toutes sortes de tissus, déchirés, brûlés, abîmés... Ils exercent leurs talents dans leur magasin ou chez le client, réparant vêtements, canapés, tapis, rideaux, etc.

Leurs outils? De simples aiguilles, de la ficelle et un cercle en bois tel qu'on en utilise habituellement pour la broderie. Il n'existe pas de centre d'apprentissage pour ce métier. «J'ai appris avec mon père à l'âge de douze ans», explique Adel Agha, fier de sa profession, avant d'ajouter: «Une connaissance du tissage facilite tout de même les choses».

Pour une somme qui varie de 2 à 5 JD maximum, n'importe quel décheture est réparée sans qu'il soit possible de dire à quel endroit le vêtement fût-il en cuir était abîmé.

Le métier demande beaucoup de calme, de patience, et une excellente vue. Il est bien rémunéré de l'avis d'Adel Agha, car, avec six concurrents seulement sur Amman, le travail ne manque jamais.

Sur les origines de son métier, Adel Agha répond en citant une

histoire que lui a racontée son père. «Au temps des Kalifs, le ministre du trésor du Kalif Haroun al-Rachid, avait l'habitude de recevoir l'impôt en or dans des sacs de tissus. Pour voler un peu d'or avant de livrer les sacs à son souverain sans rompre le sceau qui les fermait, il avait imaginé de séparer les fils de la toile et de les raccommoder habilement après avoir vidé les sacs d'une partie de leur contenu. Il apprit ainsi le métier du raccommodage, qu'il transmit à ses fils.»

Tous confirment qu'il est trop tard, passé l'âge de douze ans, pour commencer à apprendre ce métier et qu'il faut au moins un an pour bien l'apprendre. Comme tout métier, il a aussi ses risques: la fatigue énormément la vue, et conduit souvent à la cécité. Ce n'est pas un hasard, d'ailleurs, si la plupart d'entre eux portent déjà des lunettes à verres épais.

Le faible niveau de vie du Jordanien moyen le conduit à faire souvent appel aux raccommodeurs du centre-ville. Mais il n'est pas rare que des gens fortunés fassent aussi appel à lui. Il est tellement agréable de retrouver une veste neuve alors qu'on la croyait fichue pour une brûlure de cigarette, deux jours après l'avoir achetée!

Sabah Hadidi



Un métier de calme et de patience, transmis de père en fils.

A L'AFFICHE

F O C U S

Cercle littéraire britannique

Policiers à la loupe

La première rencontre du tout nouveau cercle littéraire du British Council, mardi 12 août, n'aura pas pour thème la période classique du roman policier anglais. Le point de mire choisi par son organisateur, qui est aussi le numéro deux du centre britannique, Rafiv Bendre, sera la période de l'Entre-deux-guerres (1918-1939), censée être l'âge d'or du genre, l'époque d'Agatha Christie et de Dorothy L. Sayers.

Le Jourdain: Est-il raisonnable de passer ainsi sur Sherlock Holmes et sur son créateur Arthur Conan Doyle, sans en dire un seul mot?

Rafiv Bendre: C'est impossible et ce serait impardonnable. Ma propre admiration mise à part, Holmes présente un très grand intérêt historique pour notre rencontre. Sans lui, Agatha Christie n'aurait jamais créé son Hercule Poirot.

LJ: Peut-il s'expliquer d'avantage?

RB: Volontiers. Dans ses enquêtes on vient de fêter le centenaire de sa toute première, A study in Scarlet (1887). Holmes combinait deux méthodes pour découvrir le mobile du crime et son auteur: un moyen scientifique, l'étude minutieuse des moindres indices relatifs aux suspects; et un moyen plus subtil, l'exercice d'une finesse psychologique. C'est la deuxième qui a séduit la jeune Agatha Christie et, à travers elle, a donné au détective anglais ses caractéristiques. Hercule Poirot, né en 1920 avec The mysterious affair at styles en fut le premier prototype. Pour démasquer l'assassin, il dépend moins de l'accumulation étreinte de petites preuves que d'une analyse de la personnalité.

LJ: Pourquoi a-t-il préféré placer cette période sous la loupe plutôt qu'une autre?

RB: Pour deux raisons. D'abord, l'œuvre d'Agatha Christie et celle de Dorothy L. Sayers représentent bien ce qu'on entend par roman policier anglais: une devinette intellectuelle brillamment résolue par un amateur perspicace et à laquelle le lecteur est invité à participer. Deuxièmement, ces divertissements de haute qualité littéraire fonctionnent pour le cercle comme un point de repère. Ils nous renvoient aux origines -à Sherlock Holmes, par exemple. Ils forment aussi un contraste avec la production littéraire de l'après-guerre. Celle-ci, pervertie par une surdose de sexe et de violence gratuite, ne présente plus le charme des œuvres de l'Entre-deux-guerres, ni son bonheur parfait, ni sa rigueur intellectuelle. On a bien raison d'accorder à cette période le qualificatif d'Age d'or.

LJ: Ne trouve-t-il pas qu'il est important aussi de parler des précurseurs, de l'ère victorienne, Wilkie Collins et Charles Dickens?

RB: Une connaissance de cette période n'est pas d'une nécessité absolue pour l'évocation de notre thème. Charles Dickens, bien qu'il nous ait donné avec son inspecteur Bucket (dans Black House, en 1853), le premier portrait romanesque d'un vrai policier, n'a pas créé un nouveau type littéraire dans ce domaine.

LJ: Et si un membre du cercle voulait tout de même en parler?

RB: Il est le bienvenu. Je souhaite que ce cercle soit un catalyseur, qu'il suscite parmi les participants des questions sur le genre policier. Beaucoup, en fait, dépendra d'eux. Qu'ils placent sous la loupe ce qu'ils voudront. Mon thème n'est qu'un point de départ. A l'heure qu'il est, je n'ai aucune idée de la composition du groupe et je ne sais pas jusqu'où iront nos sujets. Jusqu'à plus ample informé, en tout cas, je souhaite à tous une soirée pleine de cadavres et d'infatigables déductions.

Sabah Hadidi

J E U X

La leçon d'arabe

par Sabah Hadidi

LES ADJECTIFS POSSESSIFS

Les adjectifs possessifs en arabe prennent la forme de suffixes accolés à la fin du mot sur lequel ils portent. En voici la liste appliquée à un nom masculin: Kitab (le livre), et à un nom féminin: Tawila (la table), qui donnent au pluriel Koutoub (les livres) et Tawilat (les tables):

-i mon ou mes. Exemple: Kitabî: mon livre, Koutoubî: mes livres.

-i ma ou mes. Exemple: Tawilatî: ma table, Tawilatî: mes tables.

-i ton ou tes. Exemple: Kitabak: ton livre, Koutoubak: tes livres.

-i ta ou tes. Exemple: Tawilatak: ta table, Tawilatak: tes tables.

-i son ou ses (à LUI). Exemple: Kitabha: son livre, Koutoubha: ses livres.

-i sa ou ses (à LUI). Exemple: Tawilata: sa table, Tawilata: ses tables.

-i son ou ses (à ELLE). Exemple: Kitabha: son livre, Koutoubha: ses livres.

-i sa ou ses (à ELLE). Exemple: Tawilatha: sa table, Tawilatha: ses tables.

-i notre, nos. Exemple: Kitabna: notre livre, Koutoubna: nos livres.

-i notre, nos. Exemple: Tawilana: notre table, Tawilana: nos tables.

-i votre, vos. Exemple: Kitabkum: votre livre, Koutoubkum: vos livres.

-i votre, vos. Exemple: Tawilakum: votre table, Tawilakum: vos tables.

-i leur, leurs. Kitabha: leur livre, Koutoubha: leurs livres.

-i leur, leurs. Tawilatha: leur table, Tawilatha: leurs tables.

VOCABULAIRE

Mama: le soir,
Asak: Madame,
Mahawet: content,
Khér: la bonté,
Nawr: la lumière.

DIALOGUE

A: Maman el-Khér! Bonsoir!
B: Maman sa-nawr! Bonsoir!
A: Khér hal anak? Comment va votre épouse?
B: Al-hamdu lillah, choukran! Bien, merci!
A: Asak, al-hamdu lillah, wa anak khér, mahawet? Bien, Dieu soit loué, et toi comment ça va, tu es heureuse?
B: Allah yassak! Dieu te protège!
A: Tawilak! Entre, assieds-toi, prend quelques choses!

CINEMA

TELEVISION

DIMANCHE

"Escalier C" (1985). Film de Jean-Charles Tachella, avec Robin Renacci et Jean-Pierre Bacri. Qui sont les locataires de l'escalier C? Ils semblent n'avoir aucun point commun, excepté leur moyenne d'âge: 30 ans. Centre Culturel Français, mardi 13 août à 20h00.

17h50 - Devoir, le dernier dessin. Dessin animé.
18h10 - Le fondement du renouveau. Documentaire sur la banque africaine de développement.
18h30 - Ça c'est du cinéma.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Carat de notes. Extraits de musique classique.

LUNDI

"Some Like It Hot" (Certains l'aiment chaud), de Billy Wilder, avec Jack Lemmon, Tony Curtis et Marilyn Monroe. L'histoire absurde de deux musiciens qui assistent accidentellement au massacre de la Saint-Valentin et prennent la fuite pour Miami déguisés en femmes, avec l'orchestre de Marilyn Monroe. Centre américain, dimanche 12 et jeudi 16 août, à 20h00 (en anglais).

17h55 - Brel, un cri. Documentaire sur le chanteur français Jacques Brel.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Magazine sportif hebdomadaire.

MARDI

"Die Gasse" (La frontière). Film de Theodor Schibler (1981). La frontière entre le royaume de Bavière et celui de Saxe constituait, jusqu'à une période récente, la frontière entre la RDA et la RFA. Institut Goethe, le mardi 14 août à 20h00. Sans dialogue en anglais.

18h10 - Des Chiffres et des Lettres. Jeu.
18h30 - La Chance aux Chansons. Variétés françaises du passé.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Anjou d'été en Jordanie. Magazine local réalisé et présenté par Salah Madi.

MERCREDI

18h05 - SOS disparus. Série policière.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Sélection de variétés françaises.

JEUDI

Ciné-club. Séance quotidienne à 20h00. Projection supplémentaire pour les jeunes, le jeudi à 16h00.

17h45 - "Molluscos" (17): dessin animé.
18h10 - Des Chiffres et des Lettres. Jeu.
18h30 - La Chance aux Chansons.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Sincero. Le magazine de l'émission.

VENREDI

17h30 - "Comp de tête", de Jean-Jacques Annaud, avec Patrick Dewaere (1978). François Perrin s'illustre dans l'équipe de foot de Nîmes. Pour avoir banni, par méchanceté, la vedette de l'équipe en match d'entraînement, il est renvoyé de l'équipe et de l'Union, où il travaillait, qui appartenait au même patron.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - La révolution de l'écologie. Documentaire sur les sciences.

17h45 - "The last Emperor", de Bernardo Bertolucci, avec Peter O'Toole.
19h15 - "Le grand bleu", de Luc Besson, avec Jean-Marc Bar.

SAMEDI

17h45 - "Le monde est à vous". Emission de jeu et variétés présentée par Jacques Martin, avec Julien Clerc et Xavier Deluc.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Documentaire sur les phénomènes atmosphériques.

17h45 - "Le monde est à vous". Emission de jeu et variétés présentée par Jacques Martin, avec Julien Clerc et Xavier Deluc.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Documentaire sur les phénomènes atmosphériques.

LE SAVIEZ-VOUS ?

PLUIE. Le maire d'Istanbul a fait appel à une société américaine pour soulager ses administrés souffrant de la sécheresse. La firme doit larguer pendant 7 mois, du 15 septembre au 15 avril prochains, des «bombes à pluie» au dessus de la métropole turque de 6 millions d'habitants. La technique, un «bombardement» à l'iodure d'argent de nuages à partir d'un avion a déjà fait ses preuves aux îles Canaries, en Arabie Saoudite et en Jordanie.

CINEMA. Le premier film sur la guerre d'Afghanistan, une coproduction soviéto-italienne, est actuellement en tournage au Tadjikistan. Son titre: «Afghan breakdown». La rupture afghane. Dans le rôle principal, l'acteur italien Michele Placido incarne un commandant d'une unité de parachutistes en proie à une profonde crise de conscience à quelques semaines du retrait soviétique, alors qu'il a combattu les résistants afghans pendant neuf ans. Un Apocalypse Now soviétique, en quelque sorte.

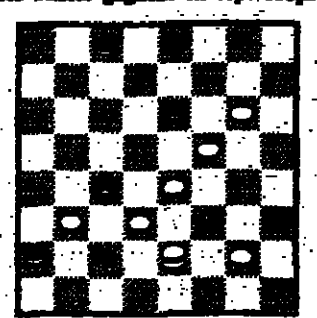
ENLEVEMENTS. Un enfant qui avait été enlevé à Hanoi et vendu sept fois à des trafiquants a été rendu ces jours derniers à sa famille par la police, au terme d'une enquête de douze jours. Le rapt avait provoqué un mouvement de solidarité des voisins de la famille de l'enfant qui avaient aussitôt réuni une forte somme d'argent pour faciliter les recherches. Le phénomène de trafic humain de Vietnamiens en direction de la Chine est relativement répandu.

VENUS. La sonde Magellan, lancée en mai 1989 par la navette Atlantis a atteint Vénus vendredi, à 230 millions de km de la Terre. A partir du 1er septembre, elle devrait commencer à utiliser son radar pour percer l'épaisse couche de nuages qui entoure Vénus et prendre des photos dix fois plus précises que ses sœurs soviétiques, lancées en 1983.

DAMES

Problème N. 23.

Les Blancs gagnent en sept coups.



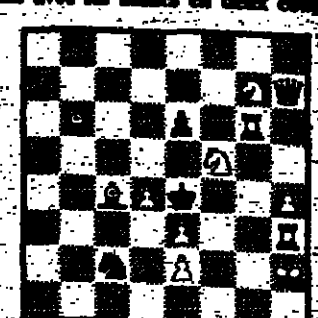
Solution du problème N. 22.

B. 27-23; N. 21-7; B. 20-4; N. 19-28; B. 4-8; N. 2-11; B. 8-13; N. 9-27; B. 29-24.

ECHecs

Problème N. 23.

Mais avec les Blancs en deux coups.



Solution du problème N. 22.

Cot-66.

Saddam call for Arab revolt fuels oil prices

NEW YORK (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's call for an Arab uprising against the United States, which has caused market nerves, has helped fuel a surge in oil prices.

But analysts remained cautious and appeared unwilling to take any positions ahead of an uncertain weekend. As a result, energy prices closed off their highs for the day.

West Texas Intermediate for September delivery, the U.S. benchmark crude, rose 56 cents to close at \$26.23 a barrel after trading as high as \$26.60. Unleaded petrol rose 3.03 cents to 79.45 cents a gallon.

"It doesn't look like Hussein is backing down at all, but we are in a trading range here," said Tom Benz, director of trading at United Energy Inc.

Traders said players bid up the market at the opening and in the first hour in anticipation of developments out of the Arab summit in Cairo and in reaction to Saddam's speech.

United Energy's Benz added

that strong buying in oil products, particularly gasoline, helped lift crude prices. He said gasoline looked strong because, given consumer fears of lines, it seemed a sure thing that crude.

Distant-month contracts of petrol and heating oil were up the daily limit of two cents a gallon, while comparable crude contracts were up only moderately.

Volume was described as light. Meanwhile, Venezuela Friday sent its foreign minister to tour key OPEC states including Saudi Arabia in an apparent bid to get a group agreement on how to raise output to offset any oil shortages caused by the Gulf crisis.

A spokesman in Caracas said countries visited by the minister, Reynaldo Figueredo, during his week's tour would include OPEC member states Algeria, Iran and Saudi Arabia. He would deliver a message from President Carlos Andres Perez.

The spokesman gave no details.

Perez last week encouraged

consumer hopes that members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) may eventually raise output above current quotas to offset at least some of the volume lost by the United Nations embargo on oil from Iraq and Iraqi-held Kuwait.

"If this void is not filled, prices will shoot up..." Perez said.

Venezuela and others, like Saudi Arabia, are afraid that high prices might force the West into energy-saving policies and wreck the market for their oil.

Perez said an output decision would have to be collective — a problem for OPEC since Iraq is one of the 13 members and is unlikely to favour any action that might stop prices rising.

Iraqi industry officials said they want to make as much money as it can from any oil that it can squeeze past the U.N. embargo and it probably also hopes that high prices will sap the West's will to maintain the oil boycott.

Some OPEC delegation

sources said they thought an informal agreement might be worked out among ministers that would satisfy those who do not want the crisis simply to trigger another era of uncontrolled quota-busting.

Algerian Oil Minister Sadek Bousensa is the current OPEC president. He has said there is no need yet for extra supply, noting high stocks in the Western nations, but that ministers should stay in touch.

OPEC wants the oil industry's surplus stocks to be used up, since they would be a threat to prices if the Gulf crisis abated.

"Why don't they draw down their stock to balance the short-fall from Iraq and Kuwait," asked Indonesian Oil Minister Gintjar Kartasasmita.

London-based industry sources said an OPEC deal might aim to make up perhaps half the estimated four million barrels of lost Iraqi and Kuwaiti volume to begin with.

London's 'little Arabia' suffers Gulf crisis slump

LONDON (R) — The summer rush in London's busy "little Arabia", where expensive stores and restaurants cater to wealthy Middle Eastern visitors, has ground to an abrupt halt.

"Our trade dropped as soon as Iraq invaded Kuwait," said Nasrin Heydari, manageress of a women's clothing and fashion accessory shop, said Friday. "The very next day the shop was quiet."

Trade in stores all along London's Edgware Road, the central shopping street serving the Arab community, has dropped by up to 30 per cent as Kuwaitis holidaying in London to escape the fierce Gulf heat keep a tight hold on their dwindling cash.

When Iraq invaded Kuwait in

the early hours of Aug. 2, Kuwaitis in London woke to find themselves cut off from their families and incomes, and forced to trim their spending.

"We've had Kuwaiti women in here in tears with their children, begging us to cancel orders," said Charlotte Barnett, owner of an embroidery business which specialises in personalised clothing and textiles. Piles of unwanted cushions, now offered at reduced prices, fill the shop.

Automatic cash dispensers at Kuwaiti banks are closed and the National Bank of Kuwait is allowing Kuwaitis to change only 250 dinars — \$470 at the bank's rate — a week.

The owner of an agency providing short-term accommoda-

tion for Arabs said all his Kuwaiti clients had now asked to move to smaller, cheaper premises. Flats in the Edgware Road area can cost thousands of pounds a week to rent.

"It's a disaster for business," he said. But he expressed sympathy for the stranded Kuwaitis — "I'm a refugee here myself, a Kurd from Iraq."

Shopkeepers said other Arabs were also being careful with their money in case the trouble in the Gulf spreads.

There were still plenty of customers in local cafes, but they appeared to consume little as Kuwaiti men congregated there to discuss their problems and catch up on news.

One elderly man said he had

been forced to cancel a heart operation at a private London hospital to save money.

Abdullah Aziz, in London on business when Iraq invaded his country, broke down in tears describing his fears for the future and his family back home. "I don't know what I will do when my money runs out," he said. "I may have to beg on the streets."

Allen Cooper, owner of an outsize-menswear shop that sells Western clothes to Arab visitors, said he feared wider economic problems if the Gulf crisis was not speedily resolved.

"Profits are going to suffer," he said. "But it's not just this street that's affected. The whole world depends on Arab oil and Arab money."

Turkish stocks shrug off Gulf crisis, leap 5.2%

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish stocks shrugged off the impact of the Gulf crisis Friday and rose 5.2 per cent after President Turgut Ozal said he did not expect a serious clash in the region.

The 50-share index at Istanbul's stock exchange rose by 219.5 points, the first rise after a day of losses triggered by heavy sell-offs following the invasion of Kuwait by Iraqi troops last Thursday.

"Turkey has no designs on the land of any country and its own land is as holy as others. I do not believe a serious action will be carried out in the Gulf... Turkey is a stability factor in the region," Ozal told state television late Thursday night.

"I believe the stock market will

recover from the impacts of the Gulf crisis shortly, in the coming week. The panic has definitely disappeared," said broker Mustafa Yilmaz.

Friday's trading volume was at 75.2 billion lira (\$29 million), up 14.6 per cent from Thursday but down sharply from last week's average of 167.3 billion lira (\$62 million) and compared to this week's 85.2 billion lira.

Dealers and bankers said the fall escalated through sell-offs by punters who wanted to nurse profits earned during the market's rise since the beginning of July. The index had soared to 5,749.69 on Aug. 2, following a 10-day bullish run with consecutive record high closes.

Venezuela anticipates more profits from oil

CARACAS (AP) — For the first time in a decade, many in this oil nation are once again planning to get rich quick.

"In a country that prospered and then sank by the price of the barrel, many are already eager to have Venezuelan oil replace embargoed supplies from the Middle East."

"What we should understand is that we can recover a great percentage of profits we have lost during the past 10 years," said Edgar Valle, chairman of the senate's energy and mines committee.

"We have the capacity to participate and supply the demands of the allied countries that, due to world deficiencies, can see their oil needs rise," said Andres Sosa Pietri, president of the state oil monopoly PDVSA. Pietri has already been arguing for stepped-up production.

Venezuela has not yet officially confirmed reports it will produce an extra 500,000 barrels of oil daily, a 25 per cent increase in production over the nation's usual 1.94-million-barrel output, according to the OPEC group.

Even so, cash-strapped Venezuelans are already arguing over how to spend the expected windfall.

The nation's largest labour organisation, the Venezuelan Workers Confederation, proposed that the money be set aside for social programmes.

The ruling Democratic Action Party advised the government to return to the negotiating table with foreign creditors to bargain for "special treatment" on paybacks for part of Venezuela's \$37 billion foreign debt.

The finance minister announced that the money would be used strictly for debt paybacks.

Analysts and journalists were kept busy adding up projected

income.

Venezuela would make an extra \$3 billion this year, predicted one oil writer, taking for granted that the embargo would last through December. One billion dollars minimum, calculated Valle.

Venezuela now earns nearly \$11 billion annually from oil, which accounts for about 90 per cent of its export income. An additional 500,000 barrels would earn an extra \$10.5 million daily, if Venezuela keeps its promise to hold prices to the \$21 per barrel target set by OPEC.

But not all are optimistic.

Many Venezuelans are deeply disillusioned with their government, and some believe that any new money would be stolen by the corrupt or swallowed by the bureaucracy.

"Forget it," said a cafeteria clerk, whose \$100 per month wage buys less than half of what it did last year. "The rich guys in the government will just divide it up among themselves."

"You and I won't see a centimo," predicted a taxi driver working a double shift to make ends meet.

For different reasons, President Carlos Andres Perez and his Energy Minister Celestino Armas, are also far more cautious.

They note that the oil crisis may be short-lived. They also are sensitive to the problems that would be raised if Venezuela, an OPEC member, exceeded OPEC quotas.

Venezuela's oil euphoria also threatens to undo the philosophy of the Perez government.

Throughout his 18-month term, Perez has tried to convince Venezuelans to stop banking on the roller-coaster oil market to rebuild the nation's ailing economy.

"We are against drastic price increases, because just as sharply they rise, they sharply fall,"

Big Kuwaiti firms keep functioning in London

LONDON (AP) — Kuwait Petroleum Corp. (KPC) the state-owned company which coordinates Kuwait's oil activities, and the Kuwait Oil Tanker Corp. are currently being managed from London, KPC has said.

Kuwait petroleum marketing companies are able to provide their customers with products and services as usual, the statement said.

The statement didn't say how KPC concerns intend to supply their retail outlets without access to Kuwait's crude oil.

However, KPC has actively been buying crude cargoes on spot oil markets, oil industry officials have said.

KPC said its operations were being managed from the offices of its international affiliate, Kuwait Petroleum International, while the tanker concerns' operations were being run from Kuwait Oil Tanker offices in London.

"All these companies are the property of the State of Kuwait whose legitimate government is now outside Kuwait but is in regular contact with these companies," the statement said.

KPC operates three refineries and sells about 420,000 barrels a day of petroleum products in Europe daily. It also has wholesale operations in other countries.

Kuwait Oil Tanker operates a fleet of 30 oil tankers worldwide, the statement said.

Kuwait Petroleum International coordinates the activities of the Kuwait petroleum companies which operate in Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, France, Italy, Britain and Thailand and are engaged in refining and marketing.

KPC noted that the U.S. government and European Community "have arranged to protect the assets of the legitimate government of Kuwait and its agencies, by freezing certain bank

Gold soars on heated crisis in Middle East

NEW YORK (R) — Gold prices rocketed Friday as investors, fearing an escalation of the Middle East crisis, rushed for shelter in the commodity.

The active December delivery closed up \$11.10 at \$405.90 an ounce, which was also an important break through the psychological barrier of \$400. The metal is at its highest since late March.

"The strength came from the hotting of the political situation in the Middle East," said John Geraghty of Commodity Associates.

The spark that lifted gold sharply higher was news that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had called for an Arab uprising and urged Egyptians to stop foreign fleets from sailing through the crucial Suez Canal.

"I don't think what happened was any secret," said Tom Griffo at Cargill Investors Services. "People were short (of gold) and

the fear of something happening militarily (over the weekend) prompted them to cover."

In the final minutes of trading, the White House's dismissal of Saddam's call for a holy war as an effort to divert attention from his aggression in the region, further fuelled the rally, analysts said.

Analysts said the rally started in overnight markets, where European traders took protection against any weekend eruption in the Gulf.

Geraghty said gold also was bolstered by a surprise jump in silver.

"Silver went from being in the doldrums to trade at the day's highs at the close, and this created the possibility that it may again be a \$5 commodity," he said.

That price level had been previously seen as a ceiling. Spot silver settled up 11.2 cents to \$4.969 an ounce.

Wall Street stocks drop

NEW YORK (R) — The U.S. stock market fell sharply Friday as investors grew increasingly worried about a possible expansion of the Middle East conflict after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein called for an Arab uprising in the Gulf.

"A peaceful resolution of the Middle East situation looks more and more unlikely," said Bradley Turner of McDonald Co. brokerage house.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 42.33 points, or 1.5 per cent, at 2,716.58. New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) volume was light at 145.3 million shares, compared with 155.8 million Thursday. Declines outran advances by a wide 1,035 to 435 margin. The average share of stock lost 37 cents.

Analysts said trading activity was subdued, which suggested that investors were reacting not by selling stocks but by going into a holding pattern.

Traders were also haunted by the spectre of inflation after crude oil prices posted large gains on worries that the Middle East turmoil may disrupt oil deliveries from the Gulf.

The approaching weekend contributed to the stock market's weakness as investors grew increasingly reluctant to hold large stock positions, analysts said.

"Volume is pretty low, and I think investors are waiting to see if any positive or negative news" from the Middle East, said John McElroy, of 1838 Investment Advisors.

Stocks were not affected by the U.S. Labour Department's report that wholesale prices fell 0.1 per cent in July, which analysts had cautioned might be the last favourable news on inflation for some time.

The NYSE composite index fell 2.09 points to 184.15.

On the American Stock Exchange (AMEX), the AMEX index lost 2.17 to 339.32, while the NASDAQ index fell 4.95 to 408.03.

The Standard and Poor's 500 index — a broad market indicator — fell 4.42 to 335.52.

Soviet Union may get \$12b if it joins IMF

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union could get credits of up to \$12 billion over three years to help its economic reforms, it is the International Monetary Fund (IMF), a state banking officials said in a newspaper interview.

Viktor Rakov, chief currency expert at the central state bank Gosbank, told Ivestia that IMF membership could also bring discipline to the economy as it switched to a market system.

Rakov, who took part in talks with IMF head Michel Camdessus last month, said Moscow would probably have to transfer \$1.1 billion to the IMF if it joined.

"Contrary to false statements, however, the USSR's entry into the IMF would not automatically mean a net outlay of foreign currency," he said.

"(Our payments) would in principle give us the right over the course of three years to receive various credits worth \$10 to \$12 billion, he noted.

For decades, Moscow denounced the IMF as a tool of "Western imperialism," accusing it of forcing harsh market policies on poor countries in return for investment.

But the Kremlin is now embracing market economics as a way to fill empty shop shelves and revive ailing industries.

President Mikhail Gorbachev urgently needs Western technology and expertise to modernise factories and farms. But hard currency reserves have been depleted by high food imports and falling world prices for the Soviet Union's raw materials.

The IMF has set up a group to study the Soviet economy and consider questions of Soviet participation. The independent Soviet economic journal Kommersant said recently Moscow might apply to join the 151-member association next year.

Rakov said many local authorities demanded large amounts of foreign currency from central Soviet reserves for projects, but were ill-prepared to use the money effectively and pay it back. Bureaucracies too often interfered.

"It will be a different case with foreign credits related to specific projects. The creditors, for instance the IMF, will themselves assess the effectiveness of their investments," he said.

The Soviet government is due to present plans to parliament for radical reforms.

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Wasef Azar
Managing Director

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Thursday, August 9, 1990 Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
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Pound Sterling	1232.4	1239.8	
Deutsche Mark	414.2	416.7	
Swiss franc	472.8	495.8	
French franc	123.5	124.2	
Japanese yen (for 100)	440.4	443.0	
Dutch guilder	367.1	369.3	
Swedish crown	112.9	113.6	
Italian Lira (for 100)	56.6	56.9	
Belgian franc (for 10)	201.3	202.5	

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U.N. secretary general calls for immediate ceasefire in Liberia

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has called for an immediate ceasefire in Liberia.

Earlier, Perez de Cuellar met with Gambian Foreign Minister Alhaji Omar Sey to discuss plans to dispatch a West African peacekeeping force to Liberia. U.N. spokeswoman Nadia Younes said.

"The calls on all the combatants to respect the human rights of the people and calls on all combatants to agree to an immediate ceasefire and thereby halt the senseless slaughter that is now occurring," the spokeswoman said.

She said Perez de Cuellar is urging the warring factions to cooperate with the West African peacekeeping force. If it is successful, the U.N. will be able to reactivate its humanitarian assistance programme in Liberia, Younes said.

The United Nations evacuated its staff from Liberia because of the violence, forcing the humanitarian efforts to be conducted from neighbouring countries.

A U.N. agency in Rome said Friday it would send \$16 million in emergency food aid to help

feed about 400,000 people uprooted by Liberia's war.

The food will be shipped to Liberia and the neighbouring countries of Ivory Coast, Guinea and Sierra Leone, where tens of thousands of Liberians have taken refuge.

Meanwhile Liberian rebels closed in on President Samuel Doe's fortress-like mansion Saturday, trying to oust him before the arrival of a West African peacekeeping force.

Rebels led by Prince Johnson fortified positions in Monrovia city centre while men under the command of his rival, Charles Taylor, advanced in the capital's eastern suburbs.

Johnson said his forces narrowly missed killing Doe in an ambush.

He said his men opened fire on Doe's blue Peugeot car as the president was being driven through the city near the Defence Ministry less than a mile from his mansion.

"We are the ones who did the job," said Johnson, denying a claim by Doe that the ambush Thursday was carried out by U.S. Marines firing from a helicopter.

Taylor said he was mounting a

final assault against Doe, a former army master sergeant who seized power in a bloody coup 10 years ago. "I want to get Doe," he said. "We're going to use some very, very heavy force."

Five of Liberia's neighbours in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have agreed to send in a 2,400-strong peacekeeping force but the date of its arrival was unclear. It was expected in Monrovia within days.

At the United Nations, Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar called on all sides in Liberia's civil war to agree to an immediate ceasefire and to cooperate with the African peace force.

Rebels in the east of Monrovia have swept forward several kilometres in only three days since clearing a pocket of army resistance at a radio station in the outer suburb of Paynesville.

Asked whether their sudden advance after weeks of deadlock marked a final push to oust Doe before the ECOWAS troops arrived, Taylor said "yes."

He said his men had reached Springs Payne Airfield, about four kilometres from Doe's mansion, and were trying to dislodge

government troops at a nearby barracks.

"Once we get there, we're within artillery range (of the mansion)," he said.

Taylor said he would start bombarding Doe's refuge from the sea within 24 hours.

Diplomatic reports later said Taylor had taken control of Monrovia's only functioning hospital, St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital, and immediately ordered all patients as well as priests living there to leave.

The European aid organisation Medecins Sans Frontieres, who have been treating wounded from all sides in the civil war, said they had also been ordered out.

A spokeswoman in Brussels said the volunteer team were refusing to leave unless the safety of patients were guaranteed.

She said a grenade had exploded in the hospital but it was not clear whether anyone was hurt.

Johnson told reporters he had beaten back an attack by about 100 of Taylor's men on his rear flank at a bridge on Stockton Creek near Monrovia's port, which he has controlled for two weeks.

S. African troops, police and ANC marshals restore order in township

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Armed soldiers, riot police and ANC marshals marched through mixed-race townships of Port Elizabeth to restore order after 42 people died in four days of rioting and looting.

"I would appear the situation is under control, but we cannot say if it will flare up again or what is going to happen," said Maj. Bill Dennis, a police spokesman in the southeastern coastal city. He said sporadic incidents of arson, looting and stone-throwing continued Friday although it was "much quieter."

Police Lt.-Gen. Mulder Van Eyck said security forces were in control of much of the area, where violence erupted Monday night following a local meeting to protest rent increases and the educational system.

Police said 42 people were killed in fighting which spread Thursday night to townships around the city of Uitenhage, 15 miles inland from Port Elizabeth. Some were killed by police gunfire, but there was no breakdown on how many, they said.

Police said 220 people had been arrested for "looting, plundering and burning" since Monday.

Telephone, trash collection, mail and all other public services were cut off in the riot-hit areas. Municipal employees had been targeted for attack and, along

with most other residents, stayed home to protect their houses.

The government had appealed to Port Elizabeth residents to stop the unrest. The African National Congress (ANC) held a community meeting and urged people to stay off the streets.

Van Eyck said residents told him the unrest was sparked by the "high rental of homes, the lack of proper water supply, lack of facilities and the inadequate schools."

The riots began Monday in a clash between members of a political group and police at a meeting to protest rent increases and education problems.

Dennis said police had learned that criminals had joined the crowd and helped spark the violence by throwing stones.

Police and political organisations said criminal gangs and mobs of looters then took advantage of the unrest and were responsible for much of the violence and arson.

Police repeatedly opened fire with shotguns and pistols to disperse the mobs. Businesses have also been reported firing at looters.

Sisulu contradicts Mrs. Mandela statement

In a separate development, ANC leader Walter Sisulu went on government-run television Friday to contradict Winnie Mandela's assertion that suspension of

guerrilla actions was "a strategy" and violence would continue.

Sisulu, internal chairman of the ANC, said the National Executive Committee "decided that, as from now, the armed struggle, meaning the shooting, actually will stop."

"It was decided as a well-considered decision, not a mere strategy," said Sisulu, one of the founders of the ANC's military wing.

But the ANC issued a strong statement Friday demanding that the government suspend the internal security act, a law that allows people to detain suspects indefinitely in solitary confinement. The ANC said 151 of its members have been arrested recently under the law.

The organisation said the arrests run counter to an agreement reached with the government Tuesday, when the ANC suspended its armed struggle to make way for negotiations on the end of apartheid. The government said it would review the internal security act and consider repealing some sections.

The statement followed Sisulu's television appearance. In reply to a question from a TV reporter, Sisulu said no action would be taken against Mrs. Mandela, wife of ANC Deputy President Nelson Mandela, for her comments on the suspension of guerrilla actions.

COLUMN

Letter to Gorbachev voted top of Britons' mailing list

LONDON (R) — Mikhail Gorbachev has been voted Britain's favoured pen pal. An international Royal Mail survey Friday showed that the Soviet president is the person most Britons would like to write to. Out of 2,000 people questioned, 32 per cent picked Gorbachev. Nelson Mandela, the black South African national leader, came second with 19 per cent and third was Hollywood actor Paul Newman with 16 per cent.

Man gets 5 years for fatal fire

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut (AP) — An electrician convicted of doing faulty work that caused a fatal fire was sentenced to five years in prison in what was described as the first case of its kind in the nation. In June, a superior court jury convicted Richard E. Salz of second-degree manslaughter in the death of 12-year-old Burton Gorman III, who died of smoke inhalation in a 1988 house fire. Salz's faulty installation of a heating unit in the basement of the home of Burton and Louise Gorman, the victim's grandparents, caused the fire, investigators said. Besides failing to get a permit for the work, Salz ignored the manufacturer's instructions for installing the heater and committed more than a dozen electrical code violations, authorities said. But before being sentenced, he told Superior Court Judge Joseph T. Gormley Jr. that he had done nothing wrong. "I did the job properly," said Salz, who claimed witnesses against him had lied. "This was a kangaroo court." Prosecutor Michael Dearington said Salz did not simply make a mistake but was guilty of "flagrant, reprehensible, egregious work." His lawyer, James Ullman, said that at most, Salz was guilty of sloppy workmanship. He said the verdict would be appealed.

Rock band members plead guilty

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida (AP) — Two members of the rock group Red Hot Chili Peppers were ordered to pay \$5,000 each to a rape crisis centre and apologise to a woman they sexually harassed during a beach concert. Michael "Flea" Balzary, 26, and Chad Smith, 28, each pleaded guilty to battery. Balzary, 26, also pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct and solicitation to commit an unlawful and lascivious act. County Judge Freddie Worthen sentenced Balzary and Smith each to pay a \$1,000 fine, prosecution costs and donate \$5,000 to the Volusia County Rape Crisis Centre. Both also had to apologise in writing to the 20-year-old college student, who was attacked on the beach last March 14 during the taping of an MTV Cable Television spring break broadcast.

Motorcyclists converge on Black Hills town

STURGIS, South Dakota (AP) — A quarter-million motorcyclists have converged on this small Black Hills town to enjoy races, tours and general good times. The weeklong 50th Black Hills Motor Classic has turned the town of 7,000 on the edge of western South Dakota's Black Hills into a motorcycle haven. "It's great, mind blowing," Marguerite McNeill of Queensland, Australia, said Tuesday. "It seems to have all ages. It doesn't matter what or who you are." Motorcycles are parked on the six blocks of main street that have been blocked off to other traffic. Bikes are parked on both sides of the street and in double rows down the middle of every block. The visitors included lawyers, bankers, police officers, doctors and housewives. "This is just unreal to see this many people," said Burt Trumbower, wearing leather and a diamond stud in his left ear, as he surveyed main street. Trumbower, 45, a postal inspector was attending his 17th rally. Two wedding parties zoomed up and down the street, and another couple was observed talking vows in a nearby park with a bearded, leather-clad man officiating. Some attending the rally belong to established groups, such as Hell's Angels, Bandits and Sons of Silence. The rally started small in 1940, and was dedicated to tours and races. The races are still held, but over the years the parties have taken precedence.

Indian troops kill 12 insurgents

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Indian border guards shot and killed 12 Muslim separatists after they crossed over from Pakistan to campaign for independence of the disputed territory of Kashmir, police said.

The separatists were killed during an encounter with the guards at Trehgam border area, 80 kilometres from Srinagar, capital of Indian-held part of Kashmir.

Details of the reported encounter were not immediately available.

India and Pakistan have fought two wars over Kashmir since gaining independence in 1947. This summer, tensions between the two nations flared over the Kashmir dispute, a region which both countries claim.

India accuses Pakistan of sup-

porting the Muslim secessionist movement in Kashmir by providing arms and training to Muslim militants. Pakistan, an Islamic state, denies the charge but says it will back any movement for self-determination by the Kashmiri people.

At least 959 people have been killed in the Kashmir Valley since New Delhi cracked down on the secessionist movement on Jan.

Gunmen kill Colombian murder witness

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — The government's chief witness in the assassination of a presidential candidate a year ago was slain by two gunmen disguised as police officers, the national police has said.

The assassination of Sen. Luis Carlos Galan last August by suspected drug traffickers prompted the government to launch a war on the traffickers. Cesar Gaviria had been Galan's campaign manager and became his party's candidate after the assassination. Gaviria won national elections earlier this year and was inaugurated as president this month.

The witness, Jose Orlando Chavez, and his brother were shot dead in a south Bogota neighbourhood last Sunday, a police spokesman told the Associated Press by telephone.

The spokesman spoke on condition of anonymity, a standard practice with the national police. Chavez had told police he was hired to hold up a large poster at a Galan political rally last Aug. 18. Gunmen who shot Galan hid behind the placard until they opened fire.

Chavez was arrested but gained his freedom by cooperation with authorities in the investigation.

The newspaper added that Chavez's testimony led police to the killers who fired the shots that killed Galan, the Bogota daily El Tiempo said.

The daily, Colombia's largest, also said Chavez helped authorities conclude that the assassination was ordered by Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, the Medellin cocaine cartel's number two man who was killed in a shootout with police last December.

According to El Tiempo, Chavez agreed to help carry out Galan's assassination because the cartel had promised him a house and a car in return.

Sunday's attack was the second attempt on Chavez's life, the newspaper said. The first occurred earlier in the year when he survived eight bullet wounds by an unknown gunman shortly after being released from jail, El Tiempo reported.

Meanwhile, security forces arrested 10 suspected drug terrorists and seized a cache of automatic assault rifles at a ranch belonging to Medellin cocaine cartel chief Pablo Escobar, police said Thursday.

Tamils oppose Sri Lankan plans for mass evacuation from north

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Tamil politicians said Saturday they were strongly opposed to government plans to evacuate hundreds of thousands of civilians from northern Sri Lanka to make way for an all-out assault on separatist guerrillas.

"It is not a practicable plan. How can so many people be asked to move out of their homes just like that?" said M.V. Senathiraja, a Tamil member of parliament.

Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said Friday that civilians in northern Sri Lanka's Jaffna peninsula — most of them Tamils — would be evacuated in preparation for a major assault on the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Senathiraja, of the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front, said Tamil members of parliament wanted a meeting with President Ranasinghe Premadasa to express their opposition.

Other political sources said it would be difficult to move so many people and provide them with shelter, food and security. Jaffna, the main Tiger strong-

hold, is also the heartland of the Tamil community who make up 13 per cent of Sri Lanka's predominantly Sinhalese population of 16 million.

Tamil politicians estimated 600,000 people lived on the peninsula at the northern tip of the Indian Ocean island.

The population was 800,000 in the last census in 1981 but many people have fled in the past seven years because of the ethnic conflict.

Wijeratne said Jaffna civilians would be asked to move to a refugee camp in Vavuniya, 140 kilometres to the south.

"We will get the people from Jaffna to a camp in Vavuniya and send them back to Jaffna after annihilating the LTTE brigades," he told parliament.

He accused the Tigers, fighting for a separate Tamil homeland, of using civilians as human shields in battles with security forces.

The evacuation would help prevent civilian casualties, he added, and free Tamil youths conscripted by the Tigers.

Wijeratne, who is in charge of

military operations, did not say when the evacuation would start.

He said the plan had to be approved by the president.

The Tigers launched their latest offensive in June after abandoning 14 months of peace talks with the government.

Meanwhile armed Muslims, avenging attacks on their community by Tamil rebels, killed three Tamil civilians in a northern village, military officials said Friday.

At least six houses belonging to Tamils were burned in Thursday's attack in the northern district of Vavuniya, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

At least 193 Muslims have been killed in the past week by Tamil rebels fighting a civil war with the Sinhalese-dominated government for an independent homeland.

Muslims claim neutrality in the fighting, but the separatists accuse them of siding with the army.

In other fighting Thursday, five rebels and a government soldier were killed, the military officials said.

Atlantis slightly damaged in storm

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — Some of the heat-resistant tiles on the space shuttle Atlantis were damaged in a thunderstorm that trapped the shuttle outside a hangar for hours, officials have said.

Atlantis was about to be taken inside when the storm struck Thursday afternoon, preventing workers from moving the shuttle until three to four hours later.

Earlier in the day, Atlantis had been moved off the launch pad for repair of a hydrogen leak, and a newly fixed Columbia was rolled out of the hangar to take its place.

Workers counted about 90 cracks or chips in Atlantis' tiles, apparently caused by hail, said NASA spokesman Bruce Buckingham. Workers will use a silicon compound to fill the cracks.

Each orbiter has 25,000 to 30,000 tiles, which protect the vehicle from the heat of re-entry into the atmosphere.

A lightning bolt hit the launch pad during the storm, but a lightning rod controlled the strike and Columbia was not damaged.

NASA plans to launch Columbia next month carrying the Astro Observatory. It has spent two months inside the hangar undergoing repairs for a leak in its hydrogen fuel system.

Atlantis' next flight, a classified military mission, is now set for November.

Meanwhile a NASA committee investigating the focusing flaw that crippled the Hubble space telescope said that there was an error of about one millimetre in a measuring device used to grind the telescope mirrors.

In the precise world of optics, such an error is "astounding," said one expert.

The Hubble space telescope, a \$1.5-billion orbiting observatory, was launched in April and engineers discovered two months later that a mirror in the device had been manufactured incorrectly. As a result, the telescope's views of stars are blurred and of severely reduced value to astronomers.

A one-page statement released by NASA said a committee investigating the Hubble problem found that a measuring device called a reflective null corrector had been adjusted incorrectly when the primary mirror was being ground and polished at the Hughes Danbury Optical Systems plant in Danbury, Connecticut.

Hughes Danbury had preserved the null corrector in the exact position that had been used to grind and polish the mirrors in the early 1980s and the investigation committee tested the device on Wednesday.

Preliminary results of the test, the statement said, "have revealed a clear discrepancy of approximately one millimetre between the design of the null corrector and the device as it exists."

A millimetre is about one-twentieth of an inch, or about the size of the very tip of a ballpoint pen.

Daniel Schulte, a senior scientist at the optical laboratory at the Lockheed Palo Alto Research Laboratory in California, said that an error of that magnitude was "astounding."

Others were to hit the canal itself.

"We'll wait until zero hour to open fire against some ship passing through the locks. If no ship passes, we will fire on the control tower," according to the document.

Korean border crossing now impossible — Seoul

SEOUL (R) — Last ditch efforts to arrange an unprecedented trip by tens of thousands of South Koreans to the Communist North have failed, Seoul officials said Saturday.

South Korean officials returned to the capital from the border village of Panmunjom after waiting in vain for a meeting with their northern counterparts. Seoul had proposed the meeting Friday.

Southern officials said an exchange of people across the border was now virtually out of the question.

"It's technically impossible," said a spokesman from the North-South dialogue office, the main channel for official communication between the two sides.

South Korean President Roh Tae-woo last month proposed that the crossing point at Panmunjom open for five days around Korean Independence day, Aug. 15 — the day Pyongyang plans a unification rally with dissidents from the South.

The government opened up neighbourhood offices this week

to accept applications to go North and 61,355 people, most of them elderly South Koreans separated from their families during the 1950-53 Korean War, applied to cross.

Pyeongyang has twice rejected the list, saying Seoul must first allow a Northern "consolatory" group to visit three people now in jail for illegally visiting North Korea.

"Unless North Korea accepts the list of South Koreans who want to go to the North and guarantees their safety, it seems that the visits can not be realised," said the dialogue office spokesman.

"We will try to open the border on Aug. 13. But if North Korea continues to reject our list, no South Koreans will be able to go," another official said.

Attempts by South Korean Catholic priests to meet Northern representatives in Panmunjom to arrange a mass in North Korea were also thwarted as soldiers blocked the priests from entering the border village, Yonhap News Agency said.

Washington mayor found guilty on one drug charge

WASHINGTON (R) — Washington Mayor Marion Barry was found guilty Friday on one charge of cocaine possession but acquitted of a similar charge and the judge declared a mistrial on 12 other cocaine and perjury counts.

Federal Judge Thomas Jackson declared the mistrial on the 12 counts after the jury said it could not reach unanimous verdicts on the guilt or innocence of Barry, 54, a former civil rights activist who as mayor of the U.S. capital is one of the country's most prominent black politicians.

It was a clear defeat for prosecutors who had spent years investigating rumours of drug use swirling about the mayor.

Barry's face was expressionless when the jury foreman declared the one guilty verdict on a misdemeanor carrying a maximum penalty of a year in prison and a \$100,000 fine.

Barry faced three felony counts of lying to a grand jury and 11 less serious misdemeanor charges involving cocaine possession.

The jury said it was unanimous that it could not agree on the 12 deadlocked charges. Jackson then declared the mistrial, leaving the prosecution to decide if a new trial should be held on those charges. The prosecution later said it would decide by Sep. 17 whether to retry the undecided charges.

This was the eighth day of jury deliberations in the sensational 10-week trial of the Democratic mayor, a son of poor Mississippi sharecroppers.

Among the charges that baffled the jury were those arising from a Federal Bureau of Investigation

(FBI) "sting" in which Barry was arrested after being videotaped allegedly smoking crack cocaine at a hotel.

He was with a former lover, Hazel "Rasheeda" Moore, a former fashion model turned drug addict who was cooperating with federal authorities. The defence said Barry was illegally ensnared in the trap sprung by the FBI because when he went to the hotel he was interested in sex, not drugs.

Barry supporters outside the court building whooped with glee at the jury verdict. Barry said nothing but his press secretary said he would make a statement Saturday.

The only count on which Barry was found guilty involved cocaine Doris Crenshaw, a Democratic political consultant, said she gave Barry in November 1989 at a Washington hotel.

Witness Charles Lewis, a one-time city employee, testified Barry and he used cocaine going back to 1986 in the Virgin Islands. Lewis also worked with prosecutors in exchange for a reduced sentence on drug-dealing charges.

Washington, which is 70 per cent black, divided roughly along racial lines in reacting to the split verdict.

"It was entrapment from the beginning," said Lisa Thomas, a black, who called Barry's admitted drug abuse a personal tragedy but not a criminal matter.

"I think the guy is guilty as hell. Anybody on the public side shouldn't be taking drugs. He has an example to set for the blacks as well as the whites," said one white man.

Angola repeats willingness to talk with rebels

LUANDA, Angola (AP) — President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos has repeated his readiness to reopen talks with U.S.-backed rebels to reach a ceasefire in Angola's 15-year civil war.

Dos Santos said he believed a new round of negotiations would open this month in Portugal, Angola's state-run news media reported Friday.

The president spoke to Angolan journalists after travelling Thursday for Sao Tome and Principe to meet Portuguese Prime Minister Amilcar Cavaco Silva, who is vacationing in the West African archipelago.

Dos Santos said the next meeting between the two sides would discuss how a ceasefire could be monitored.

Jonas Savimbi, leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, has said he too hopes a truce can be agreed this month.

Negotiations apparently have snagged on a rebel demand that the government recognise them as an opposition force.

Government officials have said this would require a revision of Angola's Marxist-inspired constitution which enshrines a one-party system.

The government says the commission, which includes government and rebels, could be set up to revise the constitution, but only after a ceasefire has been reached.

Cavaco Silva said he was optimistic after his meeting with Dos Santos. "The conditions have been created for a ceasefire soon," the Portuguese News Agency, LUSA quoted him as saying.

Portugal hosted two rounds of direct talks between the warring Angolans in April and June.

Documents reportedly show Noriega plan to blow up canal

MIAMI (AP) — Manuel Noriega drew up plans during the 1970s to sabotage the Panama Canal attack U.S. military headquarters to guarantee compliance with the treaty giving the waterway to Panama, according to confiscated documents.

Notes by Noriega on the plan, portions of which are printed in the September issue of New York-based Details magazine, were found during last year's U.S. invasion. The files are currently in a warehouse guarded by the U.S. army in Corozal, Panama.

The documents indicate Noriega was behind a series of small explosions in the old U.S.-controlled canal zone during 1976, when Panama was trying to hasten negotiations with the United States over the canal.

Noriega's attorneys dismissed the charges.

During the 1970s, Noriega was a rising officer in the Panamanian military intelligence service.

Panama's then-leader, Gen. Omar Torrijos, died in 1983 in a plane crash and Noriega eventually took control of the military and de facto control of the country. He was ousted in December after U.S. troops invaded.

"In this operation of placing the bombs, I personally received orders from my Lt.-Col. Noriega," said a report by an unidentified officer. "My colonel told me he wanted 14 bombs placed, as a symbol for the 14 (U.S. military) bases."

One of the bombs failed to explode and Noriega was asked by the United States if he knew anything about the device, but denied it, the story said.

The Details article was written by Doug Vaughan, a free-lance reporter who was hired as an investigator by Michael O'Kane, a defence attorney for Noriega co-defendant Daniel Miranda.

Miranda is out on bond on charges of helping to fly drug money from Florida to Panama.

Attorneys for Noriega, who is being held here on drug-trafficking charges since his surrender on Jan. 4, scoffed at the reports.

"I would be very, very surprised if there were any such document with Gen. Noriega's signature," Jon May said Friday. "I don't believe it. But of course, it has